

Japan warns about Europe terror; tourists are calm

WASHINGTON/PARIS — Japan and Sweden joined the U.S. and Britain on Monday in warning citizens about traveling in Europe because of concerns about a terror attack. Pakistani intelligence officials said five German militants were believed killed in an American missile strike close to the Afghan border. Two officials said the victims were believed to be German citizens in the region for terrorist training. A third said they were believed to be foreigners, but gave no details.


The officials spoke anonymously because their agency does not permit operatives to be named in the media.

The travel advisories from Tokyo and Stockholm came as European authorities sought to calibrate their messages on counterterrorism efforts, hoping to raise public awareness about the threat but without sowing panic.

The warnings could plant the seed for possible damage to Europe's lucrative tourism business at a time when the continent's economy has been coping with recession though many tourists took the warnings in stride.

The U.S. State Department alert Sunday advised the hundreds of thousands of American citizens living or traveling in Europe to take more precautions about their personal security. The Japanese alert was similar.

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Once, twice, three times a lady



This handout photo provided by the Supreme Court shows, from left, Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Justice Elena Kagan in the Justices' Conference Room prior to Justice Kagan's Investiture Ceremony, Friday, Oct. 1, 2010, at the court in Washington.

(AP Photo)
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New high court era: Kagan makes 3 women on bench

By MARK SHERMAN,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court began a new era Monday with three women serving together for the first time, Elena Kagan taking her place at the end of the bench and quickly joining in the give-and-take.

In a scene that will repeat itself over the next few months, Kagan left the courtroom while the other justices remained to

hear a case in which she will take no part. She has taken herself out of 24 pending cases, including the second of the two argued Monday, because of her work as the Obama administration's solicitor general prior to joining the court in August.

Opening its new term on the traditional first Monday in October, the court turned down hundreds of appeals, including one from the relatives of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

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U.S. working to accept exiled Cuban prisoners

the vast majority of exiled Cuban political prisoners from Spain to the United States and has already processed the first case, a senior State Department official told The Associated Press on Monday. Nearly all of some 39 former prisoners who are already in Spain, along with more than 100 family members, are likely to accept the offer, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the program publicly.

"The majority of those prisoners and family have expressed an interest in the program," said the official. State Department spokesman Charles Luoma-Overstreet confirmed the broad outline of the anonymous official's account. "We welcome the unconditional release of political prisoners by the government of Cuba, and continue to call for the release of all political prisoners," Luoma-Overstreet said.

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Members of the Cuban female dissident group Ladies in White gather before their weekly march in Havana, Cuba, Sunday Sept. 19, 2010. Cuba's Roman Catholic Church on Friday revealed the names of four more political prisoners to be released into exile in Spain, bringing to 36 the number freed and sent off the island under an agreement with President Raul Castro's government.

Associated Press

PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press Writer

HAVANA (AP)—Washington is working on a plan to bring



JAPAN-EUROPE

Continued from Front Page

Britain's Foreign Office warned travelers to France and Germany that the terror threat there was high. Sweden's Foreign Ministry did not single out any particular countries in its message.

One trigger for the heightened concern came from French authorities last month. A parade of officials said France was facing its highest terror alert level in years, pointing to increased violence and threats by al-Qaida's North African branch.

The public concerns intensified last week after a Pakistani intelligence official said eight Germans and two British brothers were at the heart of an al-Qaida-linked terror plot against European cities.

Security officials say terrorists may be plotting attacks in Europe with assault weapons on public places, similar to the deadly 2008 shooting spree

in Mumbai, India. European officials have provided no details about specific targets. Authorities in Europe sought to play down any talk of a rift in approach.

"The Americans have got to make their own announcements, that's a matter for them. We work very closely with them on these issues, and have the same policy which is to update travelers and give them advice as and when we think it's appropriate," Steve Field, spokesman for Prime Minister David Cameron, told reporters in London.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said his country has no concrete evidence of an imminent attack and that security forces are vigilant due to an ongoing "high abstract danger" of the terror threat.

Speaking in Berlin, de Maiziere insisted that German authorities have been aware since early 2009 of possible

targets in the capital mentioned in U.S. media reports over the weekend.

"There is no reason to be alarmist at this time," de Maiziere said.

Britain, France and Germany have not raised their terror threat levels in recent weeks in part because they are already high. In France, for example, the next notch up would give authorities the power to enact draconian measures like closing airports and railway stations.

The Swedish intelligence agency SAPO on Friday raised the terror alert from low to elevated, noting a shift in activities among Sweden-based groups that could be plotting attacks against the country.

In Rome, speaking on state-run RAI TV, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said the U.S. alarm about the potential for a terror attack in Europe was "realistic" for Italy because it has troops in Afghanistan. Frattini said there were no specific Italian targets.

In Washington, the FBI and the U.S. Homeland Security Department said they have no indication that terrorists are targeting the United States or its citizens as part of a new threat against Europe.

An intelligence bulletin obtained Monday by The Associated Press said the U.S.

government organizations said al-Qaida continues to want to attack the United States, but that there was nothing specific, imminent or related to the European plots.

Former U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff urged Americans in Europe to take commonsense precautions.

"Don't walk around with the American flag on your back," Chertoff told ABC's "Good Morning America." "(Consider) where would you take shelter if something happened."

In Britain, officials noted that the United States has taken a far more cautious line about terrorism.

British intelligence prefers to keep targets under surveillance as they plan attacks, often waiting until the final stages of a plot to intervene hoping to gather evidence to be used in prosecutions, and to gain as much information as possible about plotters' contacts.

"That cuts significantly too close to the bone for the United States, they are not happy to let plots run for too long. The U.K. will allow a plot to run to quite a late stage," said Tobias Feakin, director of national security at London's Royal United Services Institute, a military think tank.

Business travelers and tourists arriving Monday at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport from

the United States said they were aware of the warnings but weren't changing their plans.

"I'm very happy to be here in France. I think we're very safe, and I trust the French government to keep us safe," said James O'Connell, a 59-year-old from Pittsburgh, arriving in Paris for a 7-day vacation.

Germans authorities and citizens alike were not convinced of the need for concern.

Marian Sutholt, 25, of Berlin said: "If you worry all the time, you actually live up exactly to what the terrorists want."

In Paris, the New York Knicks practiced as scheduled Monday ahead of the next match of their European preseason tour.

"We know where to go and the places to visit and again, you have to cherish the moment because it's not often you get a chance to play an NBA game in Paris," star forward Amare Stoudemire said.

Shahzad reported from Islamabad. Associated Press writers Juergen Baetz in Berlin, Shino Yuasa in Tokyo, Louise Nordstrom in Sweden, Nicole Winfield in Rome, David Stringer and Paisley Dodds in London, Eileen Sullivan in Washington and AP Television News reporters Nicolas Garriga in Paris and Dorothee Thiesing in Berlin contributed to this report. □



NEW YORK — The male-female orgasm gap. The sex lives of 14-year-olds. An intriguing breakdown of condom usage rates, by age and ethnicity, with teens emerging as more safe-sex-conscious than boomers.

New survey on sex in US, biggest since 1994

That's just a tiny sampling of the data being unveiled Monday in what the researchers say is the largest, most comprehensive national survey of Americans' sexual behavior since 1994.

Filling 130 pages of a special issue of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, the study offers detailed findings on how often Americans have sex, with whom, and how they respond. In all, 5,865 people, ranging in age from 14 to 94, participated in the survey.

The lead researchers, from Indiana University's Center for Sexual Health Promotion, said the study fills a void that has grown since the last comparable endeavor the National Health and Social Life Survey was published 16 years ago. Major changes since then

include the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, the types of sex education available to young people, the advent of same-sex marriage, and the emergence of the Internet as a tool for social interaction.

Dr. Dennis Fortenberry, a pediatrics professor who was lead author of the study's section about teen sex, said the overall findings of such a huge survey should provide reassurance to Americans who are curious about how their sex lives compare with others. "Unless, like al-Qaida, you feel there's something abnormal about the American people, what these data say is, 'This is normal everything in there is normal.'"

The researchers said they were struck by the variety of ways in which the subjects engaged in

sex 41 different combinations of sexual acts were tallied, encompassing vaginal and anal intercourse, oral sex, and partnered masturbation.

Men are more likely to experience orgasm when vaginal intercourse is involved, while women are more likely to reach orgasm when they engage in variety of acts, including oral sex, said researcher Debra Herbenick, lead author of the section about women's sex lives.

She noted there was a gap in perceptions 85 percent of the men said their latest sexual partner had an orgasm, while only 64 percent of the women reported having an orgasm in their most recent sexual event.

One-third of women experienced genital pain

during their most recent sex, compared to 5 percent of men, said Herbenick, citing this as an area warranting further study.

The study, which began taking shape in 2007, was funded by Church & Dwight Co., the manufacturer of Trojan condoms. Questions about condom usage figured prominently in the study, but the researchers during a teleconference insisted the integrity of their findings was not affected by the corporate tie. Among the findings was a high rate of condom usage among 14- to 17-year-olds. Of the surveyed boys who had sexual intercourse, 79 percent reported using a condom on the most recent occasion, compared to 25 percent for all the men in the survey. □

Casino owner, others indicted in Ala. bingo probe



MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The owner of Alabama's largest casino, four state senators and several lobbyists face federal charges of conspiring to buy and sell votes for millions of dollars to get electronic bingo legalized, according to an indictment released Monday. One lobbying firm employee has pleaded guilty to offering \$2 million for the vote of an indicted senator.

The indictment, which lists 11 defendants, was made public as FBI agents made arrests across the state. It accuses casino owners and lobbyists of making payments and campaign donations, and legislators of soliciting bribes, to affect pro-gambling legislation. One senator was accused of seeking \$100,000 for his vote.

The head of the Justice Department's criminal division, Lanny Breuer, said the criminal activity was "astonishing in scope ... a full-scale campaign to bribe legislators and others."

VictoryLand casino owner Milton McGregor was among those indicted. His casino, now shut down, has more than 6,000 electronic bingo machines. His attorney, Joe Espy, said his client is absolutely innocent and looks forward to proving it.

Also indicted was Country Crossing casino developer Ronnie Gilley of Dothan and state Sens. Harri Anne Smith of Slocumb, James Preuitt of Talladega, Larry Means of Gadsden, and Quinton Ross Jr. of Montgomery.

All four senators voted for the unsuccessful legislation designed to keep electronic bingo casinos operating.

Also indicted were lobbyists Tom Coker and Bob Geddie, who represent VictoryLand; lobbyist Jarrod Massey and public relations executive Jay Walker, who represent Country Crossing; and Ray Crosby, an attorney for the Legislature who helped write gambling legislation.

A hearing at the federal courthouse in Montgomery was scheduled for later Monday.

Federal authorities announced Monday that one of Massey's employees, Jennifer Pouncy of Montgomery, pleaded guilty Sept. 28 to conspiracy. She admitted that at Massey's direction, she offered Preuitt \$2 million for his vote and that Massey authorized her to offer \$100,000 to Means for his vote.

The indictment alleges that Means, who had abstained from an earlier vote on the pro-gambling legislation in 2010, solicited bribes from McGregor, Gilley, Massey and others in return for voting in favor. In one case, the indictment says, he sought \$100,000.

The indictment accused Ross of pressuring McGregor for campaign donations before voting for the gambling bill. It accuses Smith of voting for the bill and encouraging other legislators to support it in exchange for promises and payments from Gilley

and others of hundreds of thousands in campaign funds. And it says the Preuitt was offered financial support, free polling and concerts by country music artists to help with his campaign.

The probe was announced last spring prior to the final votes on the bill, which died when sponsors could not line up enough for passage.

Backers of the bill, mostly Democrats, accused Republican Gov. Bob Riley's administration of derailing the measure with the announcement. While Riley's state public safety director was involved with the announcement, federal authorities said the Justice Department was handling the investigation.

Of the four state senators indicted, Means and Ross are Democrats, Preuitt is a Republican and Smith is an independent who was a Republican when the bill was in the Legislature. All are seeking re-election except Preuitt, who recently pulled out of his race.

Smith called her arrest "a nakedly political move, coordinated by the prosecutors in cahoots with the governor's office" to influence legislative elections Nov. 2.

The governor's spokesman, Jeff Emerson, said that last spring, Riley had labeled the gambling bill "the most corrupt piece of legislation ever considered by the Senate."

"Today's action by the Justice Department shows he was,

sadly, right," Emerson said.

Electronic bingo casinos operated in Alabama for several years until the governor labeled the machines illegal slots and organized a task force to close them down. The unsuccessful legislation was designed to thwart Riley's task force and keep the electronic bingo machines operating.

McGregor's casino, 15 miles east of Montgomery, was the state's largest, but it has been closed since Aug. 9 to prevent a raid by the task force, which managed to close all privately operated electronic bingo casinos during the probe.

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KAGAN

Continued from Front Page

They are seeking a proper burial for material taken from the World Trade Center site because it could contain the ashes of victims.

The justices also refused to hear several criminal appeals, including one by John and Timothy Rigas, founders of former telecommunications giant Adelphia Communications. They wanted the court to overturn their fraud convictions in connection with Adelphia's collapse in 2002.

The court also rejected an appeal by reputed Ku Klux Klansman James Ford Seale of his conviction for killing two black men in rural Mississippi in 1964 and another appeal by Georgia death row inmate Jamie Ryan Weis, who said he had no lawyer for two years.

At the court, moments after Marshal Pamela Talkin banged her gavel and commanded the audience's attention, Chief Justice John Roberts announced the start of the new term with little fanfare.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor,



This artist rendering shows the newest Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, right, during a hearing at the court in Washington, Monday, Oct. 4, 2010. Seated, from left are, Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Stephen Breyer, Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, Chief Justices John Roberts, Justice Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Samuel Alito and Kagan.

(AP Photo/Dana Verkouteren)

beginning her second year on the court, sat at the opposite end of the bench from Kagan, while Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who joined in 1993, sat midway between Kagan and Roberts, who occupies the center chair. John Paul Stevens' retirement after 34 years led to Kagan's appointment.

The new court has four New Yorkers, Antonin Scalia and the three women. All nine justices got their law degrees from Ivy League schools, and all but Kagan previously served as federal appeals court judges.

For the first time ever, there are no Protestants among the justices — six Catholics and three Jews.

The substitution of the liberal-leaning Kagan for the like-minded Stevens is not expected to make a difference in the ideologically tinged cases in which four

conservatives face off against four liberals with Justice Anthony Kennedy the decisive vote. Kennedy sides more often with the conservatives.

But none of that matters when the court hears cases like the first one of its new term, a bankruptcy dispute with no evident ideological issue.

The justices were trying to figure out whether someone in bankruptcy who owned a car outright could still shield some income from creditors by claiming an allowance for a car payment. Like many seemingly easy issues that come to the court, this one had divided federal appeals courts.

At one point, Kagan wondered whether someone with a car that had 200,000 miles on it "and was going to break down in the next five years" could plausibly claim

the allowance.

No, said Deanne Maynard, the lawyer for the credit card company that is trying to recoup some of the nearly \$33,000 it is owed by Jason Ransom. Ransom's decision to claim a \$471 monthly allowance for car payments though he owes no money on his 2004 Toyota Camry landed the case before the Supreme Court.

Kagan may have felt somewhat more comfortable than usual on a justice's first day in court because two of the lawyers in the case, Maynard and Justice Department lawyer Nicole Saharsky, worked for her when she was at the Justice Department.

The justices did not appear to lean one way or the other in the argument. Roberts suggested that some of the arguments on both sides would lead to absurd results □

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NJ school holds vigil for student who killed self

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Rutgers University held a silent vigil Sunday night to remember a student who committed suicide after his sexual encounter with a man in his dormitory room was secretly streamed online. The tribute to 18-year-old freshman Tyler Clementi drew a few hundred people, many holding candles, to the school's campus in New Brunswick. While some area religious officials briefly addressed the crowd during the hour-long vigil, few words were spoken by the participants. Most in attendance took the time to reflect on what had happened to Clementi, sharing hugs and holding hands with others in a show of unity. Among those attending was Rutgers student Julie Burg,

who said she wanted to spread the message that help is available for students in crisis. "There are many groups anywhere you go to that could help support you," Burg told WCBS-TV in New York. Burg was joined at the vigil by her mother, Annmarie Burg, who was saddened by the events leading to Clementi's death. "It had to take such an unfortunate incident like this to create, probably, an even larger awareness," the mother said. Prosecutors say Clementi's roommate and another student used a webcam to broadcast on the Internet live images of Clementi having the intimate encounter. Clementi, a promising violinist, jumped

off the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River three days later. His body was identified Thursday. Rutgers President Richard McCormick said the vigil was an opportunity for students and staff to come together and "reaffirm our commitment to the values of civility, dignity, compassion and respect." The vigil was the latest in a series of remembrances for Clementi at the university that included the establishment of a Facebook group, In Honor of Tyler Clementi. On Friday, students wore black and were encouraged to leave flowers or mementoes at a makeshift memorial for Clementi. The Rutgers Glee Club marched to the memorial and performed a rendition of "Rutgers Prayer," which



is traditionally sung when an important member of the Rutgers community dies or a tragedy happens at the university. On Saturday, the school had a moment of silence for Clementi before the start of its homecoming football game against Tulane. Clementi's death was one of

a string of suicides last month involving teens believed to have been victims of anti-gay bullying. On Friday, more than 500 people attended a memorial service for Seth Walsh, a 13-year-old central California boy who hanged himself after enduring taunts from classmates about being gay. □



Kyle Whitmer, 20, searches the remains of his home Monday, Oct. 4, 2010, where earlier in the day a fire killed five residents in Pedro, Ohio. Whitmer said the building was a former foster home and was owned by his mother. He says it was home to members of his extended family and friends who had fallen on hard times.

(AP Photo/Jeff Gentner)

5 dead, including baby, in rural Ohio house fire

By JEANNIE NUSS,
Associated Press Writer

PEDRO, Ohio — Fire swept through a 12-bedroom house in rural, southern Ohio early Monday, killing five people and injuring seven. One survivor said he jumped out a window to escape the flames, which left only a few studs and a small section of the home's side still in place.

Four women and an 8-month-old boy were killed in the fire, Ohio's deadliest this year, said Shane Cartmill, a spokesman for the state fire marshal's office. The seven injured were expected to be OK, said Kyle Whitmer, who lived in the home.

The fire began in a central breezeway, but the exact cause remained under investigation, Cartmill said. Whitmer said it's possible the fire started in a plant-filled room, where a space heater had been turned on Sunday afternoon.

Whitmer said he was woken up early

Monday by someone kicking in the door of the room where he slept. He jumped off a second-floor balcony and tried to save someone, anyone.

As he sifted through the ashes at midday, Whitmer, 20, said the house was owned by his mother, Kathy Whitmer, 52. She was hospitalized after burning her feet running through the house to warn others, he said. It was Kathy Whitmer's dream house, a place where could live with her family, friends and even friends of friends, her son said.

They lived there with Kyle Whitmer's girlfriend and her mother; his sister and her boyfriend; and friends who had fallen on hard times. The sister, Rachel Whitmer, was among the dead, Kyle Whitmer said. He said the boy who died was named Xavier and was the son of a woman dating Kyle Whitmer's friend.

As he looked through what remained of the home, Kyle Whitmer opened a tarnished storage cabinet in search of

photographs, perhaps of his sister, but they had burned.

The home sat in a valley in Lawrence County's Elizabeth Township, about 15 miles north of Ashland, Ky., near where the Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia meet. A creek winds behind the house, clotheslines crisscross through the back yard and the metal frame of a child's bicycle sat under a sugar maple tree out front.

Auditor's records show Kathy Whitmer bought the home in 2004. Her son said it was purchased in a foreclosure sale.

"It was awful," said Regina Besco, who lives in a mobile home next door. "There were family members outside knowing they couldn't get inside to their loved ones. There was nothing they could do but watch it get worse and worse until it was engulfed in flames. It was terrible, and my heart went out to them."

Afterward, the few remaining pieces of the home were completely charred. □

CUBAN PRISONERS**Continued from Front Page**

The plan gets around a Catch-22 whereby Cubans who left the island were no longer considered in harm's way, and thus not eligible for traditional asylum requests.

Some 39 prisoners have been released from Cuban jails after agreeing to leave the island with their families. Another 13 remain behind bars, reportedly because they have so far refused to leave Cuba.

Cuba agreed in July to free all 52 remaining political prisoners jailed in a 2003 crackdown on dissent, after an accord ironed out with the help of the Roman Catholic Church and Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos.

The prisoners have been leaving for Spain in drips and drabs ever since. Some have complained that Spanish officials did not properly inform them of how their departure would effect a U.S. asylum request or their eventual return to Cuba. They have also said the emergency accommodations found for them in Spain were unpleasant.

Luoma-Overstreet said that "the U.S. Embassy in Madrid is actively reaching out to the released political prisoners to inform them of this possibility and share information about eligibility."

The senior official said the process began three weeks ago and the vast majority expressed interest in going to the United States, where many have

family. One family's case has already been processed, and more interviews are expected to take place later this week in the Spanish capital, Madrid. He said the program — called the Significant Public Benefit Parole program — has been in effect in other parts of the world, but had not yet applied to Cuba. He said officials at the State Department and Homeland Security worked together to make the transfer happen.

Under the plan, each applicant will have to apply for entry, a process that could take up to a month. Homeland Security officials will make the final determination on who gets accepted.

The Cubans will enter the United States without formal residency status, but will be able to apply for residency once there. They will also be issued work permits almost immediately.

The official said he did not believe consular staff at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana had yet informed the families of remaining prisoners of the offer, but he hoped they would hear about it now that the program is public. America maintains the Interests Section in Havana instead of an embassy because it has no diplomatic relations with Cuba.

While many of those still in jail have refused to go to Spain because they do not want to abandon their homeland, the possibility of settling in the United States might entice some to agree to leave, using



Members of the Cuban female dissident group Ladies in White demonstrate during their weekly march in Havana, Cuba, Sunday Sept. 19, 2010. Cuba's Roman Catholic Church on Friday revealed the names of four more political prisoners to be released into exile in Spain, bringing to 36 the number freed and sent off the island under an agreement with President Raul Castro's government.

Associated Press

Spain as a transit point.

Despite the releases, Cuba has long denied holding any political prisoners. It says those in jail are mercenaries paid by Washington to destabilize the government.

The senior State Department official also commented on the detention of Alan Gross, an American subcontractor jailed in Havana without charge since December and accused of spying. He said the man's continued detention makes it hard to move forward on improving relations, locked in a half-century long feud since shortly after Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution.

After the release of the 52 inmates, Cuba will hold just one person considered a "prisoner of conscience" by Amnesty International.

The government is holding about 100 other people who

are not on Amnesty's list, many because they have been convicted of murder, hijacking and other violent crimes. Some human rights organizations believe the convictions and lengthy sentences were politically motivated.

A leading Cuban human rights official, Elizardo Sanchez, said Monday that the Cuban government had begun contacting nine prisoners not on the Amnesty list, offering them early release in exchange for accepting exile.

They included three men serving life sentences for hijacking a plane, and others convicted of violent crimes including piracy, assault and terrorism. Word of the expected releases — which first came out over the weekend — is the latest sign that Cuba's surprise decision to empty its jail of many political prisoners will

not be limited to the "prisoners of conscience."

"This massive release is good news," Sanchez said in a written statement.

In Madrid on Monday, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said it has no immediate plans to take in any freed Cuban prisoners outside of the 52 whose release was negotiated by the Catholic Church. The ministry said it was not aware of any of the nine on Sanchez's list having asked to go to Spain, or of Spain having been contacted with regard to taking them.

The State Department official said it was not clear if the offer of a new life in America would be extended to any of those prisoners. He said each applicant would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and violent crimes could be a factor against approval. □

Chile president sees miners rescued before Oct. 15



A bulldozer works on an heliport for the rescue operations of trapped miners at the San Jose mine in Copiapo, Chile, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010. Thirty-three miners have been trapped deep underground in the copper and gold mine since it collapsed on Aug. 5.

Associated Press

By VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile — Chile's president said Monday that his government is "very close" to pulling 33 trapped miners to safety and he hopes to be there in person to see the rescue before leaving on a trip to Europe.

It was Sebastian Pinera who told the miners after they were found alive Aug. 22 that they would be saved by Christmas, and his government has assembled a team of hundreds to support them while three simultaneous drilling operations pound escape shafts through a half-mile of rock. The drilling has gone well enough to move up the date since then, but rescue leaders have been cautious: Only last week, they estimated a late-October pullout.

Now the president has changed the expected date again, to before his Oct. 15-22 trip.

"We are very close to rescuing them, and I hope to be able to rescue them before leaving for Europe," he told a group of Chilean radio broadcasters Monday. "We are trying to adjust the two schedules."

"For me it is very important to share this moment — not only with the 33 miners, but with their families and all Chileans," Pinera added.

The miners also are getting ready for their big day.

For the last two weeks, they've been sending keepsakes up in the same capsules that carry food, clean clothes, medicine and other supplies down through a narrow borehole to their underground cavern. Letters from their families, signed Chilean flags and other things they don't want to leave behind are coming up out of the hole each day, said Alberto Iturra, the chief of a team of psychologists supporting the miners. □

Spain: Basque group detainees trained in Venezuela

MADRID (AP) — Two suspected Basque separatist militants arrested in Spain last week took a weapons training course in Venezuela, a Spanish judge said Monday.

Judge Ismael Moreno said one of the instructors in the 2008 course is a suspected ETA member who is a longtime resident of Venezuela, now has Venezuelan nationality and has held a post in the government of President Hugo Chavez.

That alleged ETA member, Arturo Cubillas Fontan, was indicted by Spain in March of this year. Among other things, Spain accuses him of helping ETA arrange explosives training with Colombian FARC rebels inside Venezuelan territory. Venezuela's ambassador to Spain, Julian Isaias Rodriguez, quickly denied any links between Venezuela and ETA. "The government of Venezuela is not linked to anything that has to do with ETA," he told Spanish National Radio.

Spain's Foreign Ministry said it had asked Venezuelan authorities to provide any information it might have relating to the training of the suspected ETA members in the Latin American country. The ministry said that following the March indictment both countries had agreed to collaborate in fighting terrorism.

Judge Moreno ordered the two detainees, Juan Carlos Besance and Javier Atristain, held without bail pending further investigation.

The judge said in an order issued Monday that the course they took in July and August 2008 involved training in marksmanship, disassembling and cleaning guns and communicating in code.

Venezuelan authorities say Cubillas has lived in Venezuela since 1989, when he came from Algeria under an agreement with Spain. He is one of about 30 Basque separatists sent to Venezuela

under various agreements with Spain in the 1980s and early '90s.

Cubillas is married to a Venezuelan woman and has held a post in the agriculture ministry in Chavez's government. □

FILE - In this March 9, 2010 photo suspected ETA member Javier Atristain Gorosabel is escorted by police officers from the Pau courthouse, southwestern France. Atristain and Juan Carlos Besance, two suspected ETA militants took a weapons training course in Venezuela, a Spanish judge said Monday Oct. 4, 2010. Judge Ismael Moreno said one of the instructors in the 2008 course, Arturo Cubillas Fontan, was indicted by Spain in March of this year and is a suspected ETA member and a longtime resident of Venezuela who now has Venezuelan nationality and has held a post in the government of President Hugo Chavez.

Associated Press



Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," *Fodor's Travel Guide*

Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

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U.S. strike kills 5 German militants in Pakistan

MELISSA EDDY

Associated Press Writers

BERLIN (AP) — An American missile strike killed five German militants in the rugged Pakistan border area where a cell of Germans and Britons at the heart of the U.S. terror alert for Europe — a plot U.S. officials link to al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden — were believed to be hiding. The attack, part of a recent spike in American drone strikes on Pakistan, came Monday as Germany said it has “concrete evidence” that at least 70 Germans have undergone paramilitary training in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and about a third have returned to Germany.

Authorities across Europe have heightened security at airports and other travel hubs as well as at main tourist attractions following the U.S. warning of an al-Qaida-linked terror plot targeting London, Paris, Berlin and other European capitals.

Washington warned Americans over the weekend to use caution when traveling in Europe and imposed a curfew on some U.S. troops based in Germany. On Monday, Britain, Japan and Sweden issued warnings of their own, advising their citizens traveling in Europe to be on alert for possible terrorist attacks by al-Qaida or other groups.

Police officers with sniffer dogs patrolled subways in Britain on Monday, while soldiers and mounted police were dispatched to two major churches in Paris — Notre Dame in the heart of the city and Sacre Coeur on the Right Bank. Paramilitary troops were also seen patrolling the area around the Eiffel Tower — twice evacuated in recent weeks for unspecified



British police officers guard one of the entrances to the Houses of Parliament in central London, Monday Oct. 4, 2010. Britain's Home Secretary Theresa May said that the threat of terrorism in the U.K. remains likely but unchanged, while upgrading travel advice for people visiting France and Germany, asking visitors to remain vigilant as the threat of terrorism is high.

threats.

The U.S. missile strike in Pakistan killed five German militants taking shelter in a house in the town of Mir Ali in North Waziristan, a known hub for foreign militants with links to al-Qaida, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

The terror cell said to be behind the Europe plot — eight Germans and a Briton — were believed to have been in hiding in the region. A second Briton was killed in a U.S. strike last month. A German Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday that his office was checking the report of the latest killings. He declined to be named in keeping with policy.

However, the German police agency responsible for terrorism investigations, the Federal Criminal Police Office, said as many as 220 people have traveled from Germany to Pakistan and Afghanistan for paramilitary training, and at least 70 have received it. A Pakistani intelligence official last week said there are believed to be around 60 Germans in

North Waziristan now.

Despite the growing evidence of a terror plot, France, Britain and Germany — the nations believed to be the targets of the scheme — have not changed their terror threat levels. On Monday, the German government played down the fears by declaring there is “no reason to be alarmist.”

The threat is being viewed differently by Washington and European capitals, and some analysts said it was a matter of approach. Such differences have played out repeatedly in the years since the 9/11 attacks on the United States, they said.

British intelligence prefers to keep targets under surveillance as they plan attacks, often waiting until the final stages to intervene — hoping to gather evidence and to gain information about contacts in Britain and overseas.

“That cuts significantly too close to the bone for the United States. They are not happy to let plots run for too long,” said Tobias Feakin, director of national security

and resilience at London's Royal United Services Institute, a military think tank.

In Germany, the homeland security spokesman for the main opposition Social Democratic party said there is a different security culture in Europe and the United States.

“After 9/11 there were almost daily warnings of new threats in the U.S. which — thank God! — never became a reality” in Germany, Dieter Wiefelspuetz said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Monday that the travel advisory was issued because of extensive evidence of a plot.

“We felt, having tracked intelligence over a lengthy period of time, it was appropriate to issue this alert at this moment,” he said.

“We specifically have said continue with your travel plans, but just be cautious because we are aware of active plots against the United States, American citizens and other allies

around the world.”

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere insisted his nation had no concrete evidence of an imminent attack. “There is no reason to be alarmist at this time,” de Maiziere said.

He said he had spoken with U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano about the travel advisory and that it is not “in keeping with our assessment of the situation.”

In a rare public speech last month, MI5 director general Jonathan Evans warned that the risk of attacks can never be completely eradicated.

“We appear increasingly to have imported from the American media the assumption that terrorism is 100 percent preventable and any incident that is not prevented is seen as a culpable government failure. This is a nonsensical way to consider terrorist risk,” Evans said.

Many tourists said they planned to be vigilant but would not change their plans.

“I’m very happy to be here in France. I think we’re very safe, and I trust the French government to keep us safe,” said James O’Connell, 59, of Pittsburgh.

Hannah Haskins, an 18-year-old from Portland, Oregon, who has been in Spain for a month working as an au pair, said she is headed to Britain next week for a visit and will be on guard but not obsessed with the terror alert. “I probably will be alert and it is going to be high on my mind, but it won’t change my plans,” she said. “I will catch the subways, go to the museums and enjoy. There are so many threats and this one is very vague. There is always a threat, so what’s the difference?” □

Israeli Supreme Court upholds deportation of Nobel laureate

AISHA MOHAMMED

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Supreme Court on Monday upheld a deportation order against an Irish Nobel peace laureate who has taken up the Palestinian cause, clearing the way for her expulsion, a court official said.

Israel banned Mairead Corrigan Maguire, 66, from entering the country because of her attempt to breach Israel's naval blockade of Gaza aboard a ship in June. A lower court upheld the deportation order Friday, and she appealed to Israel's highest judicial body.

Court spokeswoman Ayalet Filo said late Monday that the Supreme Court rejected her appeal. Interior Ministry spokeswoman Sabin Hadad said Maguire was taken to Israel's airport and would be put on the first available flight out.

She won the peace prize in 1976 for her efforts to end sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, but has since turned most of her attention to the Palestinian cause.

Maguire was detained last Tuesday after landing at the airport in Tel Aviv on her way to meet Israeli and Palestinian peace activists.

During Monday's Supreme Court hearing, Maguire called on Israel to cease what she called its "apartheid" policy against the Palestinian people.

"This is no place for propaganda," Justice Asher Grunis retorted and cut her off. The session ended soon thereafter.

The government opposed a court-proposed compromise that Maguire be allowed to join the delegation for two days and then leave.

Maguire's lawyers said they expect her to be deported, a decision that could further

tarnish Israel's image abroad. Interior Ministry officials say Maguire knew she would not be allowed into the country but sought to provoke an incident.

Upon entering the courtroom, Maguire said to reporters: "There will be peace in this country, but only after Israel ends apartheid and the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people."

Fellow Nobel laureate Jody Williams of the Nobel Women's Initiative, which sponsored the delegation, said they were unaware of the ban. But earlier in the year, Israel's Foreign Ministry denied the group's appeal to ease the ban and let Maguire take part in the delegation that arrived last week.

Maguire has also voiced support for Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu, a man widely seen in Israel as a traitor, attended anti-Israel demonstrations in



Irish Nobel peace laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire appears at the Israeli Supreme Court in Jerusalem, Monday Oct. 4, 2010. Mairead Corrigan Maguire is under a 10-year ban from entering Israel because of her attempt to breach the Gaza naval blockade aboard a vessel in June. She was detained last Tuesday upon landing at Tel Aviv international airport but appealed the move and asked the court to allow her into Israel to join a women's human rights delegation.

Associated Press

the West Bank and compared the Jewish state's reported nuclear arsenal to Hitler's gas chambers.

In 2007, she was wounded at a demonstration against Israel's West Bank security barrier when a rubber bullet fired by police hit her in the leg.

Israel has banned other pro-Palestinian activists from entering the country, including Jewish-American linguist Noam Chomsky in May.

The government later said that was a mistake.

Also Sunday, the group

that organized the Turkish flotilla intercepted by Israeli naval commandos on May 31 announced that about 500 activists from various countries in Asia would board ships headed for Gaza in December.

The Turkish IHH charity said they will set off from India by land on Dec. 2, cross Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Syria, then try to reach Gaza by sea on Dec. 27.

Nine pro-Palestinian activists, including an American citizen, were killed in the May 31 clash, setting off an international uproar. □

Red sludge floods towns in western Hungary, 2 dead

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — The reservoir of an alumina plant in western Hungary burst on Monday, flooding several towns with towering waves of red sludge. Two people died, seven were missing and several dozen were injured, rescue services said.

The spill of an estimated 600,000-700,000 cubic meters (yards) of sludge affected seven localities near the Ajkai Timfoldgyar plant in the town of Ajka, 100 miles southwest of Budapest, the capital.

In Devecser, the sludge flooded some 400 homes, and 40 people had to be rescued in the neighboring town of Somlovasarhely. In Kolontar, the rushing sludge reached a height of 6.5 feet.

The sludge, a waste product in aluminum production, contains heavy metals and is toxic if ingested, the National Disaster Management Directorate said. Some 120 people, including six who were seriously hurt, were treated by medical staff. Two of the injured were in life threatening condition. The most common injuries caused by the caustic sludge were burns on the skin and eyes, said Jozsef Czirner, the regional rescue service director.

The disaster agency said 390 residents had to be temporarily relocated and 110 were rescued from the flooded towns.

Army vehicles, two helicopters and some 40 soldiers were sent to assist with rescue efforts, state news wire MTI reported



A firefighter wades through the mud in Devecser, 164 kms southwest of Budapest, Hungary, after a reservoir containing red mud of the alumina factory in nearby Ajka broke, and the poisonous chemical sludge inundated some 400 family houses in Devecser, killing one person and injuring several dozens, Monday, Oct. 4, 2010. Three people are missing.

Associated Press

citing the defense ministry. Police were also investigating the cause of the incident, MTI said. □

FEAR

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All 8 Teams Are Ready To Start The Culinary Battle

Aruba's 2nd Chef And Student Culinary Competition Launched

Dedicated to Chef "Boegie" who dedicated his life to educate Aruba's students



ORANJESTAD - The E.P.I (Hospitality & Tourism Sector) with the cooperation of Aruba Tourism Authority, Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association and the Talk of the Town Aruba, are ready to jump start the prestigious "2nd Aruba Chef & Student Culinary Competition and Festival 2010". The event will take place from October 5th to

the 8th with the participation of 8 teams consisting of 8 Professional Chefs of Aruba with each 4 students as their team members.

The main purpose of this event, is to bring local culinary students and local professional chefs together, to expose their culinary know how. The organizing committee strongly believes in encouraging



students to continue with their studies through these types of incentives, especially the ones in the tourism sector. Also, the committee would like to mention the fact that our culinary professionals working in the tourism industry are extremely dedicated to the education of the culinary students.

By organizing this event we would like to give them the opportunity to be recognized for the tremendous job they are doing within guiding and educating our culinary students.

It is the time that this competition structure is held on the island. The participating teams will consist of one coach (who will be one of the culinary professionals of the industry) and 4 culinary students of the EPI Hospitality & Tourism Unit.

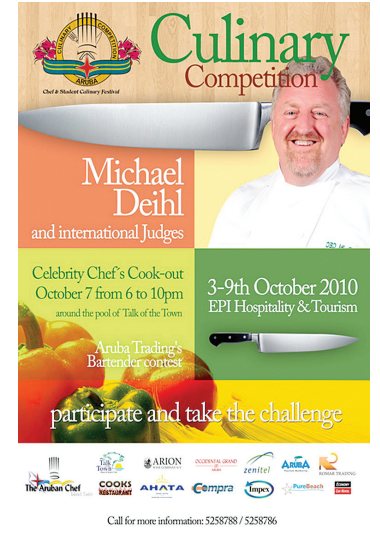
The coaches who took this big challenge in dedicating their precious time and sharing their knowledge and expertise with our students are: Chef Scott with the Aqua Grill Restaurant, Chef Erwin Huskens with Screaming Eagle, Chef Jonathan Koolman with Baranca Culinary Team, Chef Gilbert Flemming with Milano Restaurant, Chef Ever de Pena with Cooks Restaurant, Chef



Oscar Steba with The Old Man and the Sea, Chef Darwin Torres with Westin Aruba Resort and Chef Vincent Ordonez with Holiday Inn Aruba.

The official opening of the event took place on October 4th at the Epilicious Restaurant while the competitions will take place on October 5 and 6 from 9 AM to 5 PM. This year, the organizing committee announced two very important recognitions. The first one was the "Randy Franken Award of Excellence" for the Best Disciplined group, in the memory of the late EPI student, Randy Franken who also participated last year's event. The second recognition went to Chef Boegi to whom this year's competition has been dedicated to for his lifelong dedication to the culinary industry of Aruba and culinary students.

One of the highlight events for the week will take place on Thursday, October 7th during the "Celebrity Chef Cook-out and Students Bartender competition". During this evening the public will enjoy some delicious plates prepared by the Celebrity Chef, Mike Deihl together with his fellow team members, Chef Charles de Vries and Chef Ephriam Goeloe. And there will be dance presentations, musical



performances and a spectacular Bartenders Competition by the EPI Students under the guidance of well-known local bartenders. The event will take place at the Talk of the Town Aruba from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM and the entrance is free. The generated funds will be used for future projects for our culinary students and the culinary competition.

This event is a very important event to encourage our local students that enjoys the culinary world to work hard and achieve their goal in this industry.

The other important part of this event will take place on Friday, October 8th at the EPI, where the teams will have the opportunity to expose their plates to the public.

This event would not have been possible without the cooperation and vision of the following companies that believe in the importance of support our students and future chefs, and they are: Talk of the Town Aruba Resort, Compra NV, Arion Wines, Romar Trading, Red Sail Sports Aruba, Bersa, Tiara Air, Economy Car Rental, Divi Phoenix, Occidental Grand, Westin Aruba, Aruba Trading y Impex. □

In promotion of breast cancer awareness

Westin associates strut their stuff on "Jeans Day"



PALM BEACH - The Westin Resort, Aruba is currently participating in an annual October campaign in support of breast cancer awareness.

This past Friday, October 1st, associates were able to sport their best denim fashions for the day, along with special tee-shirts designed to promote the awareness cause.

Two lectures on the subject of early detection and breast cancer awareness were also held during the day for associates.



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Corsou - Aruba

Mainta	8.10 a.m.	dialuna pa diabierna
Mainta	10.05 a.m.	diasabra
Merdia	12.35 p.m.	dialuna, diaranson, diahuebs, diabierna y diadomingo
Atardi	4.15 p.m.	dialuna, diaranson, diahuebs, diabierna y diadomingo
Anochi	8.10 p.m.	dialuna pa diasabra
Anochi	10.45 p.m.	diadomingo

Aruba - Corsou

Mainta	7.15 a.m.	dialuna pa diabierna
Mainta	9.05 a.m.	diasabra
Mainta	11.35 a.m.	dialuna, diaranson, diahuebs, diabierna y diadomingo
Atardi	3.15 p.m.	dialuna, diaranson, diahuebs, diabierna y diadomingo
Anochi	7.10 p.m.	dialuna pa diasabra
Anochi	9.45 p.m.	diadomingo



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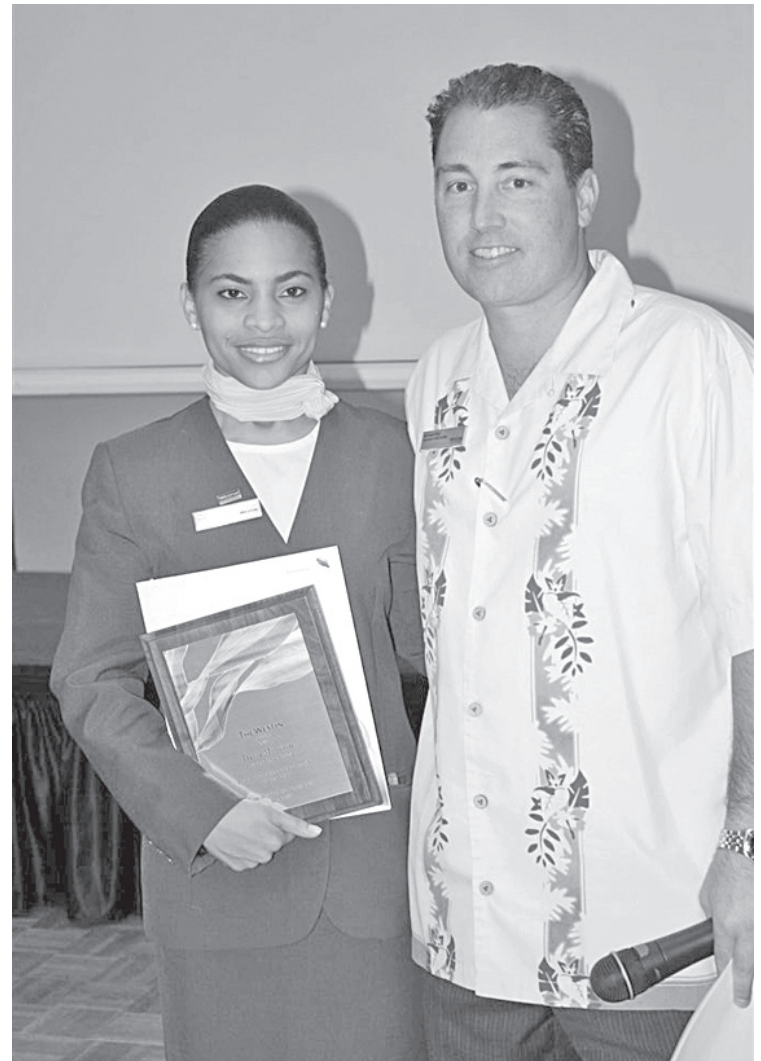
At The Westin Resort, Aruba

Top performers on the job commended



PALM BEACH - Recently, all associates and management of The Westin Resort, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in the resort's Grand Palm Beach Ballroom to honor nominees for the Brand Champion of the Month for August.

The Brand Champion of the Month nominees were tapped by management for exemplifying Westin's core values including providing personal touches and personalized services to 'surprise and delight' every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs



and making them feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments and go above and beyond expectations.

banquette teams, the following were named top of the class: From Heart of the House for August-Lyneth John from Housekeeping for her "can do" attitude, and no matter how tired, she will always smile and extend her positive attitude toward guests and associates; from Front of the House for August-Davia Monsion from the Front Office for her personal and instinctive friendly and knowledgeable touch with guests. Pictured here are the nominees and winners with General Manager Richard Roy. □

During a beautiful lunch buffet spread produced by the Westin's culinary and

Try Sicily at Bingo!

NOORD - We already know our Italian Pinot Grigio, the oaky Californian Chardonnay and the Chilean Carmenere... But have you ever tried an authentic Sicilian grape variety like Grillo or Nero D'Avola? At this moment Bingo! presents Sicilian wines by Feudo Arancio Winery! Each Arancio wine is a pure expression of the varietal from which it is made. They are full-bodied, intense and elegant. These wines are ideal for pairing with food or to be enjoyed by themselves.



Try something new! Try a Nero D'Avola from Sicily at Bingo! So come on over to Bingo! and enjoy our new Sicilian selection! □



Fantastic Gardens enjoys the Amazonia Churrascaria Experience



PALM BEACH – Fantastic Gardens employees and members of management had a good time at Amazonia Churrascaria over dinner and cocktails. Fantastic Gardens serving the local community since 1983, is hosting a kids' activity week over Fall vacation, in tune with their local clients and their needs. The celebration at Amazonia Churrascaria also included family members and featured the restaurant's signature cuisine, perfectly grilled meats paired with the island's largest salad bar. □



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Divi Concludes Fun Sports Week





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ORANJESTAD — Divi Resorts associates concluded a week-long schedule of sport activities competing in various events for the company's annual Sports Week. The program included popular recreational activities such as Bowling, Volleyball, Indoor Soccer, and Brain Gymnastics, Domino and Softball. Pictured here the Semi Finals at Aruba Juniors, as Alhambra Braves confront Divi Phoenix, in the spirit of a healthy mind in a healthy body. □



Wine lovers enjoy the Art of Dining



PALM BEACH – Wine lovers congregated in the private banquet room of Amazonia Churrascaria for a wine tasting orchestrated by wine expert Mondrick Croes. The



gathering was designed to pair food and wine, and to enhance the understanding of wine production and marketing, as it relates to today's lifestyle. Croes took attendees on a

journey through a number of wine countries and wine styles, paired with the delicious and hearty cuisine of Amazonia Churrascaria. □



Fishes & More showcases the best seafood entrees

Ask about the Early Bird Menu from 4 PM to 6:30 PM



Fishes & More specialize in freshest fish and seafood on the island, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to the fabulous dishes. Influences from all over

the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest products! Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as they have a super kids menu, so they can enjoy their dinner as much as you

will yours!

Enjoy live entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly

square are open until eleven. See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

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Westin Receives MLT Vacations 2010 Quality Assurance Award

PALM BEACH – The Westin Resort, Aruba received the 2010 MLT Vacations Quality Assurance Award at MLT University in St. Paul, Minnesota on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010. The honor recognizes hotels that achieve a 99 percent customer satisfaction index and a 99 percent product delivery performance, with a minimum of 100 bookings throughout the year.

“We are happy to recognize The Westin Resort, Aruba for their outstanding quality, customer service and product delivery,” said Elizabeth Moriarty, vice president of product development for MLT Vacations. “The resort team has demonstrated exemplary operational consistency and top-notch quality standards for MLT Vacations and its Delta Vacations, Continental

Airlines Vacations and Worry-Free Vacations clientele.”

The 2010 awards were decided based on the experiences of more than 450,000 customers who traveled with Delta Vacations, Continental Airlines Vacations and Worry-Free Vacations, from the U.S. and Canada. Out of the more than 700 hotels offered by MLT Vacations in Mexico, the Caribbean, Latin America, Hawaii and Las Vegas, only 117 qualified to receive the MLT Vacations Quality Assurance Award designation for 2010. “We are committed to providing our guests with an unforgettable experience,” said Richard Roy, general manager of The Westin Resort, Aruba. “Earning this prestigious accolade shows that we consistently deliver on that promise.”



The Westin, Resort Aruba's General Manager Richard Roy with the MLT Vacations 2010 Quality Assurance Award.

About MLT Vacations MLT Vacations, one of the largest providers of vacation packages in the United States, manages multiple vacation

brands, including Delta Vacations, Continental Airlines Vacations and Worry-Free Vacations. Delta Vacations offers customizable vacation

packages via scheduled air service on Delta Air Lines, Delta Connection® carriers or Delta Worldwide Partners to more than 200 of the world's most appealing leisure destinations. Delta Vacations includes the LIFESTYLE Collection featuring Luxury and Romance. Continental Airlines Vacations offers the lowest available packaged airfares via scheduled air service on Continental Airlines® with convenient connections from many U.S. cities, to destinations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia, including SelectEscapes™ Luxury and SelectEscapes Romance. Worry-Free Vacations offers land-only vacation packages to select destinations in Las Vegas, Mexico and Jamaica. □

Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

Driftwood Restaurant

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Reservations: 583 2515

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Special of the Month:
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\$24
per person



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Playoff pie: Tasty mix of newcomers, plot lines

By BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

Start with playoff newcomers Roy Halladay and Tim Lincecum. Throw in rocket-armed rookies Aroldis Chapman and Craig Kimbrel. Add a dash from pickups Cliff Lee and Lance Berkman. Mix in banged-up Josh Hamilton and Evan Longoria. Sounds like a pretty tasty October pie.

With all the matchups set after Game No. 162 — no tiebreakers necessary this year — baseball launches into the postseason Wednesday.

“Words can’t describe it,” San Francisco second baseman Freddy Sanchez said. “This is what I’ve played for ever since I was a little kid.”

Tampa Bay ace David Price will throw the first pitch against the Texas Rangers, the only current major league franchise that’s never won a playoff series. The afternoon opener will be played under new rules — Major League Baseball made a change Monday, saying popups that hit the two highest catwalks at Tropicana Field are now dead balls, rather than in play.

Next up, the two-time defending NL champion Phillies host Cincinnati. Halladay starts Game 1 against Edinson Volquez, with Philadelphia aces Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels to follow in a formidable rotation.

The Reds are making their first postseason appearance since 1995.

Continued on Page B6



McNIFICENT!

Europe recaptures Ryder Cup

Europe’s Graeme McDowell reacts after putting on the 16th green on the final day of the 2010 Ryder Cup golf tournament at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Wales, Monday, Oct. 4, 2010.

Associated Press

Page B2



NFL ROUNDUP

Vick-timized

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick lies on the field after getting hurt during the first half of an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Philadelphia, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010. The Redskins defeated the Eagles 17-12.

Associated Press

NFL Roundup Page 4

Europe holds on to win thrilling Ryder Cup

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NEWPORT, Wales (AP) — Graeme McDowell capped an unforgettable year for himself by securing the Ryder Cup for Europe in the very last singles match on Monday.

McDowell rolled in a 15-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole, then closed out Hunter Mahan to give Europe the 14½ points it needed to reclaim the precious gold trophy.

It was the first time since 1991 that the Ryder Cup was decided by the final singles match, a thriller made possible by the Americans getting big wins from its best players and a stunning comeback by 21-year-old rookie Rickie Fowler.

Leave it to McDowell, the U.S. Open champion, to deliver another career-defining moment.

Under far greater pressure than he faced at Pebble Beach, he turned back the American rally with a birdie putt that seemed to take forever to reach the hole until it tumbled into the cup and set off a ground-shaking roar at Celtic Manor.

"Graeme McDowell was put there for a good reason — he's full of confidence and that showed," European captain Colin Montgomerie said. "That birdie on 16 was just quite unbelievable. Quite unbelievable."

So was the finish.

Europe, ahead by three points



Europe team members hold the trophy after winning the 2010 Ryder Cup golf tournament at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Wales, Monday, Oct. 4, 2010. Front row from left, Francesco Molinari, Edoardo Molinari, Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell, rear row from left, Luke Donald, Lee Westwood, Martin Kaymer, Peter Hanson, team captain Colin Montgomerie, Pdraig Harrington, Ross Fisher, Ian Poulter and Miguel Angel Jimenez.

going into the final round, took the early lead in eight of the nine matches and appeared on its way to another rout on home soil. It all turned so quickly.

Tiger Woods holed out from the fairway for eagle during a seven-hole stretch that he played in 7-under par. Steve Stricker won the opening match and Phil Mickelson built a big lead to win late. Then came Fowler, the first PGA Tour rookie to play in the Ryder Cup, winning the last three three holes with birdies — including putts of

15 feet on the 17th and 18th — to earn an improbable halve against Edoardo Molinari.

That gave the Americans 13½ points, and they only needed a halve in the last match to retain the cup. Just as Fowler was being mobbed by his teammates, Mahan made a nervy birdie putt on the 15th to cut McDowell's lead to 1 up.

"The U.S. Open felt like a back nine with my dad back at Portrush compared to that," McDowell said. "I was really nervous there. Wow! It's a different feeling. It's just so much pressure."

It sure didn't look that way as he blasted a tee shot down the middle and hit his approach to 15 feet, leaving him a quick putt. "The best putt I've hit in my life," McDowell said.

After a week of rain that forced the first Monday finish in Ryder Cup history, more showers soon followed — only these came from bottles of champagne sprayed in every direction.

"It's been the best week of my life," said Rory McIlroy, who holed a 5-foot par putt on the 18th hole to earn a half-point against Stewart Cink that turned out to be crucial.

Montgomerie is renowned for a career missing only a major.

This felt like one, maybe even better.

"This is one of the finest moments of my golfing — wait a minute — this IS the greatest moment of my golfing career," he said.

Europe thrives on winning the Ryder Cup, yet this year went beyond the matches. McDowell won the U.S. Open, and Martin Kaymer of Germany won the PGA Championship, the first time two Europeans have won majors in the same year since 1999. For U.S. captain Corey Pavin, it was a week where everything seemed to go wrong, from forgetting to introduce to Cink at the opening ceremony to rain suits that malfunctioned to pairings that blew up on him.

That changed in a two-hour window that shifted momentum, and almost the Ryder Cup, to his side.

"We nearly got there today," he said. "We started off a little slow. We came back hard. We almost got there. I'm very proud of their resolve, of their sportsmanship and their fine play. I can only say it's been an honor and a privilege to call them teammates."

His voice breaking, he walked over to each of them at the closing ceremony to shake

hands.

The Europeans were inspired by a phone call earlier in the week from Seve Ballesteros, the catalyst for European dominance in the Ryder Cup. He is battling brain cancer and could not travel to Celtic Manor. They kept a poster of Ballesteros in the team room, then displayed it for the crowd at closing ceremonies.

McDowell got the loudest cheer when Montgomerie called out his 12 players one by one. They know him well in these parts. In his final tournament before winning the U.S. Open, McDowell won the Wales Open at Celtic Manor.

"That birdie on 16 was huge," Mahan said, choking back tears. "He beat me."

Mahan made a mess of the 17th, memorable because it was the last match. The bigger blow might have been Cink. He was 1 up on McIlroy and drove the par-4 15th green, only to three-putt for par and lose the hole.

Cink had a chance to go 1-up on the 17th when he missed a 5-foot birdie putt. McIlroy scratched out a critical half-point on the 18th when he hit into a bunker going for the green in two, left his first shot in the bunker, and made a 5-foot par putt.

Luke Donald, who along with Poulter won three matches this week, twice made 20-foot birdie putts when Jim Furyk was inside 4 feet to halve the holes and keep the lead, and keep Celtic Manor humming with cheers of "Luuuuuuuuuke!"

Poulter led the team in passion, pumping his fists and screaming above the din with every birdie.

"We have played from the heart today," Poulter said, his face soaked with champagne. "And do you know what? We brought back this trophy. This is a special day."

Woods had his best Ryder Cup, winning his opening two matches with Stricker and bouncing back from his worst defeat to overwhelm Francesco Molinari on the back nine for a 4-and-3 victory. □

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Timberwolves beat Lakers in preseason opener

MATTIAS KAREN

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP)—Michael Beasley scored 21 points in his Timberwolves debut to help Minnesota beat the Los Angeles Lakers 111-92 Monday in their preseason opener in London.

Kobe Bryant only put in a brief appearance for defending NBA champion Los Angeles, going scoreless in a little more than six minutes of playing time. That wasn't enough to satisfy the crowd at the sold-out O2 Arena, which chanted "Kobe, Kobe, Kobe" during the second half. Bryant, who is still recovering from knee surgery in the offseason, answered with polite laughs on the bench, but the pleas had little effect on coach Phil Jackson.

Instead, it was Beasley and fellow newcomers Martell Webster and Anthony Tolliver that put on a show, helping the Timberwolves use a 32-13 third-quarter run to break open the game. Webster led all scorers with 24 points and Tolliver added 10.

Lamar Odom led the Lakers

with 17 points, including 13 in a tight first half as the Lakers took a 56-55 lead into the break.

But Beasley, the forward who joined from Miami after the Heat acquired LeBron James and Chris Bosh, made sure there would be little drama in the second half.

He drained a long jumper on Minnesota's first possession and then added a 3-pointer, before driving the length of the court for a three-point play. He finished 8 of 10 from the floor in a little more than 18 minutes, and was rested for the entire fourth quarter.

Jackson had said before the game that Bryant would start but wasn't likely to play more than eight minutes. He came off after the first time-out, having produced little on the floor. He went 0 for 3 from the field, including two missed 3-pointers.

He did take part in the first highlight of the night, however, stealing a pass from Beasley and feeding Odom on the fastbreak, and Odom finished with a one-handed dunk to make it 2-

0.

Los Angeles was clearly the main attraction for the British crowd, with yellow Lakers jerseys vastly outnumbering the Minnesota shirts. However, the fans got to see little of the quality that earned Los Angeles back-to-back titles.

Ron Artest and Pau Gasol were largely anonymous, while Derek Fisher played just 15 minutes. Artest finished with three points, Gasol had seven and Fisher added 12. Center Andrew Bynum missed the game following knee surgery.

When Jackson took off Gasol — the last remaining starter — with 5 minutes left, the decision was met by boos.

While both teams gave their bench players plenty of minutes, there were a few more highlight-reel moments that did awe the crowd.

Starting Minnesota point guard Luke Ridnour — another newcomer for the rebuilding Timberwolves — led a fast break in the third quarter and put the ball up off the backboard



Los Angeles Lakers' Sasha Vujacic, right, in action with Timberwolves' Wesley Johnson during their preseason basketball match at the O2 Arena in London Monday, Oct. 4, 2010.

Associated Press

for trailing rookie Wesley Johnson to slam home and make 69-58. Pau Gasol was largely anonymous, but drove past Minnesota center Nikola Pekovic in the fourth quarter for a one-handed reverse jam.

Odom brought some laughs when Beasley fell down in front of him as he drove the ball up the court.

Odom had to leap over the forward and continued to run with an exaggerated

high-stepping stride as he drove toward the basket, before passing behind his back to Derek Fisher. The guard's shot was blocked into the stands by Darko Milicic.

The NBA's annual European preseason tour continues with Minnesota playing the New York Knicks in Paris on Wednesday and the Lakers taking on Barcelona in Spain on Thursday in a homecoming for Gasol. □



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NFL Roundup

McNabb wins in return to Philly, 17-12; Vick hurt

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Donovan McNabb threw for 125 yards and one touchdown, leading the Washington Redskins to a 17-12 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday in his first game against his former team.

Michael Vick was forced out in the first quarter with chest and rib injuries in his first start in front of the hometown crowd. Kevin Kolb, who was supposed to be McNabb's successor all along, replaced Vick after losing his starting job because he got hurt in Week 1.

So, the McNabb-Vick showdown turned into the McNabb-Kolb matchup everyone originally anticipated. But this one didn't live up to the hype.

Washington had 169 yards rushing, including 55 by Clinton Portis before he left with a groin injury. Ryan Torain had 70 yards rushing and one TD. McNabb threw just 19 passes, completing eight and getting intercepted once.

Jaguars 31, Colts 28

At Jacksonville, Florida, Josh Scobee's 59-yard field goal on the final play gave Jacksonville a surprise win.

Scobee watched his kick clear the crossbar, then ripped off his helmet and started running toward the opposite end zone. His teammates finally caught up with him on the sideline, setting off a raucous celebration for a team desperate for a victory against its biggest rival.

It was the longest field goal in franchise history.

Ravens 17, Steelers 14

At Pittsburgh, Joe Flacco withstood Pittsburgh's goal-line stand and go-ahead touchdown in the closing minutes to throw an 18-yard scoring pass to T.J. Houshmandzadeh with 32 seconds remaining to make certain the Steelers wouldn't go unbeaten without Ben Roethlisberger.

The Steelers (3-1) took a 14-10 lead on Rashard Mendenhall's 7-yard run midway through the



ABOVE: Washington Redskins quarterback Donovan McNabb (5) walks off the field after the Redskins defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 17-12 in an NFL football game in Philadelphia, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010; **LEFT:** New York Jets running back LaDainian Tomlinson, center, runs for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills in Orchard Park, N.Y. on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010. The Jets won 38-14.

Associated Press

fourth quarter, and appeared ready to win after turning away Baltimore on third- and fourth-down plays from the 2 with over two minutes remaining.

Rams 20, Seahawks 3

At St. Louis, Sam Bradford threw for 289 yards and two touchdowns, and Steven Jackson became the Rams' second leading rusher as St. Louis won for the second week in a row — its first two-game winning streak in two years.

The rookie quarterback completed 23 of 41 passes with one interception as the Rams (2-2) ended a 10-game losing streak against Seattle (2-2) and topped their win total from last year.

Giants 17, Bears 3

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Giants knocked out Jay Cutler with a nine-sack first half, sent his replacement

to the sideline late in the fourth quarter and limited the previously unbeaten Chicago to 110 total yards.

Ahmad Bradshaw rushed for 129 yards and a touchdown against a defense that had allowed 119 yards on the ground in its first three games and Lawrence Tynes kicked a 22-yard field goal as the Giants (2-2) snapped a two-game losing streak and beat the Bears (3-1), who had come into the game as the NFC's last unbeaten team.

Texans 31, Raiders 24

At Oakland, California, Arian Foster returned from an early game benching to score on a 74-yard run and a 10-yard catch in the second half to lead Houston.

Foster, a former practice squad player, has emerged as one of the biggest surprises of the NFL so far this season. Despite

entering the game as the league's leading rusher, Foster was held out until midway through the second quarter in what the Texans (3-1) said was a "coach's decision."

Chargers 41, Cardinals 10

At San Diego, Antonio Gates became the seventh tight end in NFL history with 500 catches, including touchdown receptions of 33 and 26 yards from Philip Rivers, to lead San Diego over the outmanned Arizona.

It was a big day all around for San Diego (2-2). Rookie running back Ryan Mathews scored his first NFL touchdown on a 15-yard run late in the third quarter. Fullback Mike Tolbert ran 16 times for 100 yards — his first 100-yard game in three seasons — and one score. Gates had seven catches for 144 yards.

Browns 23, Bengals 20

At Cleveland, Peyton Hillis rumbled for 102 yards and a touchdown, and Phil Dawson kicked three field goals as Cleveland finally held a fourth-quarter lead, surviving a big day by Terrell Owens for their first win.

The Browns (1-3) had lost their first three games by a total of 12 points, failing to finish down the stretch.

Saints 16, Panthers 14

At New Orleans, John Carney hit three field goals to help New Orleans keep Carolina winless, just days after rejoining the Saints at age 46. New Orleans (3-1) signed Carney last Tuesday, two days after Garrett Hartley had missed a 29-yard field goal in overtime in a 27-24 loss to Atlanta.

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, Charles Woodson returned an interception 48 yards for a touchdown as Green Bay narrowly held off a comeback by Detroit.

The Packers (3-1) led 28-14 after Woodson scored early in the third quarter, but the Lions rallied for four straight Jason Hanson field goals to cut the lead to two points in the fourth quarter. A final drive by the Packers ran out the clock.

At Atlanta, Matt Bryant kicked a 42-yard field goal with 2 seconds left to lift Atlanta over winless San Francisco.

The Falcons (3-1) got a big break to set up the winning points when receiver Roddy White forced the 49ers' Nate Clements to fumble away an interception and keep Atlanta's drive alive.

In other NFL games it was Denver 26, Tennessee 20; Green Bay 28, Detroit 26; N.Y. Jets 38, Buffalo 14; St. Louis 20, Seattle 3; Atlanta 16, San Francisco 14; Baltimore 17, Pittsburgh 14; New Orleans 16, Carolina 14; Cincinnati 20; Houston 31, Oakland 24; Jacksonville 31, Indianapolis 28; San Diego 41, Arizona 10; Washington 17, Philadelphia 12; and N.Y. Giants 17, Chicago 3. □

Mets fire Manuel and GM Minaya

HOWIE RUMBERG

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Mets fired manager Jerry Manuel and general manager Omar Minaya on Monday, an expected shake-up of the big-spending ballclub after its second straight losing season. The Mets said a search is under way for a new GM, who will work with the team to hire a new manager.

“We are extremely disappointed in this year’s results and the failures of the past four seasons,” said chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon, the son of owner Fred Wilpon. “We need to hire a new general manager with a fresh perspective who will transform this club into a winner that we want and our fans deserve.”

Manuel is the seventh manager this season to lose his job. The final guaranteed year of Manuel’s contract expired, and the Mets declined to exercise the club’s option on the deal. The Mets were 79-83 this year, a disappointing 18 games behind Philadelphia in the NL East despite having an opening-day payroll of \$133 million that was the fifth-highest in the majors. They have not been to the playoffs since coming within a game of going to the World Series in 2006.

“Changes like these are never easy, especially when you are dealing with people you like and respect,” Wilpon said.

Manuel was promoted from bench coach on an interim basis after the midnight firing of Willie Randolph in June 2008. The Mets then went 55-38 the rest of the way but missed the playoffs with a loss in the last game at Shea Stadium, on the final day of the season. It was their second consecutive September collapse.

Still, Minaya was given a three-year contract extension through 2012 and Manuel a multiyear deal.

Minaya won’t be staying on in another capacity — as of now.

“The fact is that it’s not fair to give me another role. If you’re

going to bring in another GM — first of all, I don’t think the GM would want to have me aboard and vice versa,” he said.

“Whoever the GM is, I would have to make the decision if I want to work with that person.”

He said the possibility of talks for a different job with the Mets were for a different day. “We came to a mutual agreement that at some point in time we might discuss that,” he said.

Minaya overhauled a wretched bullpen in the offseason, seemingly the club’s biggest weakness, and Sports Illustrated picked New York to win the 2009 World Series. But long-term injuries to Jose Reyes, Carlos Beltran, Johan Santana, Carlos Delgado, Jason Bay and Francisco Rodriguez have decimated the Mets’ roster the past two seasons.

They finished 70-92 last year, their first at \$800 million Citi Field, and a promising start this year was all but wiped out by a 2-9 road trip immediately after the All-Star break.

Attendance dropped at the new ballpark, and Rodriguez embarrassed the organization when he was charged with third-degree assault and second-degree harassment following a fight with his girlfriend’s father outside a family lounge at Citi Field on Aug. 11.

On the field the Mets went for long stretches without Bay, Beltran, Reyes and Santana, who had shoulder surgery in September that could keep him out for much of next season. And while All-Star third baseman David Wright rebounded from a dreadful season in ‘09, he struck out a career-high 161 times and slumped for several extended spurts.

Once the Mets dropped out of contention, the decision to fire Manuel was expected.

Manuel, AL Manager of the Year in 2000, is the seventh manager to lose his job this year. Baltimore’s Dave



This April 4, 2010, file photo shows New York Mets manager Jerry Manuel, left, Mets chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon, center, and general manager Omar Minaya standing on the field together during the team’s pre-opening day workout at Citi Field in New York.

Associated Press

Trembley, Kansas City’s Trey Hillman, Arizona’s A.J. Hinch, Florida’s Fredi Gonzalez, Seattle’s Don Wakamatsu and Milwaukee’s Ken Macha also were dismissed.

With Atlanta’s Bobby Cox, Toronto’s Cito Gaston and the Dodgers’ Joe Torre all retiring and Lou Piniella having stepped down as Cubs’ skipper in August, finding a big-name manager who could command the respect of the players and help boost attendance in New York might be difficult.

Only the Orioles and Dodgers have locked down managers. Bobby Valentine, who led the Mets to the 2000 World Series, and Wally Backman, a second baseman on New York’s 1986 championship team, have been mentioned as potential replacements for Manuel.

Minaya, who became the first Hispanic general manager in 2002 when he was hired to run the Montreal Expos, took over as GM from Jim Duquette in September 2004 and quickly enjoyed success in his hometown.

He used his Latin American contacts cultivated as a scout and talent evaluator for the Texas Rangers (1985-95), where he was responsible for signing Sammy Sosa, to sign All-Stars Beltran, Pedro Martinez, Santana and Rodriguez.

He also has been criticized for depleting the farm system while signing Oliver Perez

(\$36 million) and Luis Castillo (\$25 million) to inflated contracts.

But not much has gone right since they lost Game 7 of the 2006 NL championship series.

The Mets blew a seven-game division lead with 17 remaining in 2007 and had a 3½-game lead at the same point in ‘08 but finished out of the postseason again.

Turmoil increased in July 2009 after the Daily News reported Mets vice president of player personnel Tony Bernazard challenged Double-A players to a fight. During the news conference to announce the firing, Minaya questioned the motives of the reporter who broke the Bernazard story, saying he had asked about getting a player development

position.

Minaya apologized and Wilpon, son of owner Fred Wilpon, said the following day that the GM made a “very large mistake” by singling out the reporter and added “ownership is not happy with the direction of the team.”

Whoever takes over as GM will have little room to make any splashy moves in the offseason because of several large contracts — all of which expire after 2011.

Little-used second baseman Castillo has \$6 million left on a four-year deal; left-hander Perez, who only pitched nine times since being dropped from the rotation May 14 is owed \$12 million; and Beltran has \$18.5 million coming to him after two injury abbreviated seasons. □

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Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman throws against the Houston Astros in the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010, in Cincinnati. Chapman was the winning pitcher in Cincinnati's 3-2 victory. The Reds clinched the NL Central.

Associated Press

PLAYOFF PIE

Continued from Page B1

They rewarded manager Dusty Baker on Monday with a two-year contract extension through 2012.

"I think we got here sooner than a lot of people thought — to the playoffs," general manager Walt Jocketty said. "I think a lot of it is due to Dusty's leadership."

The World Series champion New York Yankees visit Minnesota on Wednesday night for the first postseason game at Target Field. No need to worry about playing outdoors, either — it's supposed to be sunny with temperatures in the mid-70s this week.

CC Sabathia, a workhorse throughout the last postseason, starts against Twins lefty Francisco Liriano. After his numbers dropped this year, Derek Jeter hopes to be at his best in October, as he often is.

On Thursday, the wild-card Atlanta Braves and retiring manager Bobby Cox begin their best-of-five division series at San Francisco. Lincecum, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, pitches for the Giants against Derek Lowe.

The Giants and Braves clinched their playoff spots Sunday, eliminating San Diego.

"This is what it's all about," Atlanta closer Billy Wagner said. "You play all year long and it comes down to the last game and you get the champagne shower."

A look at the major plot lines in this postseason:

_Newcomers: Now in his 13th season, Halladay led the NL in wins and innings, threw a perfect game and took a leading role in the Year of the Pitcher. He's among several longtime veterans about to make their first postseason appearance, joining Texas All-Star third baseman Michael Young, Giants first baseman Aubrey Huff and Phillies utilityman Mike Sweeney, who finally got this far in his 16th season, most among active major leaguers.

"Only early on will you be able to tell the test of nerves," said former Braves ace John Smoltz, part of the TBS telecasts in the first round. "It's like watching the Ryder Cup. Guys don't know until they go through it, the type of pressure guys are going through."

_Injuries: Most every team is hurting going into these playoffs. Justin Morneau, Minnesota's four-time All-Star and the 2006 AL MVP, is out for the year because of a concussion he sustained in early July. Hamilton, who led the majors in hitting at .359 and had 32 home runs and 100 RBIs for Texas, makes

his playoff debut after missing nearly all of September with two broken ribs. Longoria, Tampa Bay's star third baseman, didn't play the last week because of a strained left quadriceps. Philadelphia's Jimmy Rollins and the Yankees' Mark Teixeira are bruised, too, while Braves third baseman Chipper Jones had season-ending knee surgery in mid-August.

_Big Boosts: Once again, the left-handed Lee could become a major factor. He won twice for the Phillies in the World Series last year after Philadelphia got him in midseason, and this year Texas acquired him from Seattle before the All-Star break. Houston was going nowhere when it traded Berkman to the Yankees and Oswalt to the Phillies. Minnesota helped itself by getting closers Matt Capps and Brian Fuentes, and the Giants added late punch with Jose Guillen, Pat Burrell and Cody Ross.

_Rookies. Even though voting for Rookie of the Year ends before the postseason, Giants catcher Buster Posey and Atlanta outfielder Jason Heyward might stage their own duel for the award. Closer Neftali Feliz has been a savior for Texas. And a pair of relievers who saw little action — Chapman with the Reds, Kimbrel with the Braves — could really break out, much as Price did in the 2008 postseason. Chapman hit 105 mph on the radar gun, Kimbrel struck out 40 in only 20 2-3 innings. □



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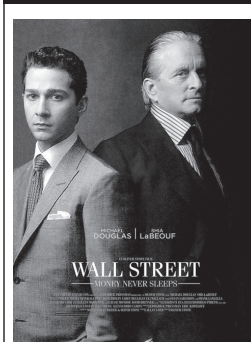
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matinee:	12.15 - 3.15	PG-13	matinee:	12.00 - 2.30	PG-13
late show:	11.30		late show:		
PIRANHA 3D			RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D		
daily:	6.45 - 9.00		daily:	7.15 - 9.30	
matinee:		R	matinee:		R
late show:	11.15		late show:	12.00	
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Middlebrook's first case is Bowyer appeal

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — John Middlebrook probably didn't expect to become the central figure in a drama with championship implications when he agreed to become NASCAR's chief appellate officer.

He'd yet to be called upon since his appointment in February to the position that's selected by NASCAR's board of directors and draws a salary of a whopping \$1 per year. Now he's finally got a case, and it's a doozy.

Middlebrook will be the judge and jury Tuesday in Richard Childress Racing's last avenue to have the championship-crippling penalty against Clint Bowyer overturned. NASCAR docked Bowyer 150 points because the car he drove to victory Sept. 19 at New Hampshire failed inspection, and a three-member appeals panel last week upheld the penalty.

"I bet he never thought he'd even get a case when he agreed to take the job," joked Jimmy Makar, vice president of Joe Gibbs Racing.

Middlebrook, who retired after 49 years with General Motors in 2008, was hand-picked before this season to replace Charles Strang, who held the position of NASCAR's "National Commissioner" for as long as anyone can remember.

NASCAR wasn't able to pinpoint how long Strang held the position, and the only records officials could find began with the 1999 season. During that 10-year span, Strang heard a grand total of 12 appeals.

So nobody really knows what to expect out of Middlebrook, who seems to fall smack in the middle of the garage when it comes to his NASCAR relationships.

He was GM's vice president of global sales when he retired, a position that put him in

contact with everybody who's anybody in NASCAR. Among the six people who honored him in his 2008 retirement ceremony were NASCAR president Mike Helton and Rick Hendrick, owner of NASCAR's most powerful team.

Middlebrook's retirement gift from NASCAR was the role of the pace car driver at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 2008, and there's no doubt his role with GM helped him forge a lengthy relationship with Childress, whose teams have fielded Chevrolets since 1969.

His many relationships would seem to make him an impartial judge, but there's an overwhelming public perception that Middlebrook will do nothing more than rubber-stamp NASCAR's ruling.

"I've told Richard it's not worth fighting," Bowyer said. "In my opinion, their minds are made up. It is what it is

and if you want to be a part of this great thing we call a sport, you better just go on and enjoy what it is."

His skepticism comes from statistics. Of the 133 appeals heard since 1999, the three-member panel upheld 89 of them, including Bowyer's. Of those 133 appeals, only 12 advanced to Strang, and he upheld eight, reduced three penalties and overturned just one.

Those numbers don't give any competitors much hope, but NASCAR president Mike Helton believes the system is "the best due process in all of sports."

"The inference that it's a kangaroo court, we look at it as a part of human nature: nobody likes to lose an appeal and when you do, you look for reasons why and the accusations that follow are human nature," Helton said. "The fact of the matter is that the process is there, the panel of three is there, and if that



In this Friday, Oct. 1, 2010, photo, Clint Bowyer signs autographs before qualifying for a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City.

Associated Press

doesn't work out you've got one more step to take it to and it's there for you, too.

"For us to be able to control all of that, a panel whose names are public, an appellate officer everybody knows, you couldn't keep that secret. Somebody would tell someone down the line that NASCAR told them how to rule." □



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SPORTS BRIEFS



Former Brazil's soccer player and candidate for the Federal Congress, Romario, right, holding a child, is pictured by a supporter as he campaigns in Sao Joao de Meriti, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2010.

Associated Press

Romario elected to Brazilian Congress

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — World Cup winner Romario has been elected to Brazil's lower house of Congress.

Romario was elected with nearly 150,000 votes in his first attempt at running for public office since retiring from football in 2008. He was the sixth-most voted for candidate in Rio de Janeiro state.

The 44-year-old Romario has promised to focus on improving conditions for many of Rio de Janeiro's poor children. He joined the Brazilian Socialist Party last year.

A former Barcelona striker, Romario led Brazil to the 1994 World Cup title and was voted the world's best player that year. He scored 55 goals in 70 appearances for his country.

Bebeto, Romario's teammate in Brazil's 1994 squad, was also elected in Sunday's elections, but to Rio's state Congress. □

U.S. beats France 3-0 at volleyball worlds

ROME (AP) — The United States opened the third round of the volleyball world championships with a 3-0 win over France on Monday.

Clayton Stanley led the Olympic champions with 14 points, 4 blocks and 4 aces — while Sean Rooney and David Lee added 11 points each.

U.S. coach Alan Knipe called his squad's attack and block percentage "almost perfect."

Two-time defending world champion Brazil, meanwhile, had to rally from a 2-1 deficit to defeat the Czech Republic 3-2, winning the tiebreak 15-8.

Also, fourth-ranked Serbia beat Argentina 3-1, with Ivan Maljlovic leading the way with 20 points; and Bulgaria defeated Spain 3-1. □



U.S. team's captain Sue Bird lifts the trophy for winners of the World Basketball Championship in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010.

Associated Press

U.S. wins women's world championship beating Czechs

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

KARLOVY VARY, Czech Republic (AP)—Sue Bird handed the world championship trophy to Tamika Catchings and the two embraced, sharing a large grin.

The only blemish on their distinguished U.S. basketball career was now gone after an 89-69 victory over the Czech Republic in the women's basketball title game Sunday night.

It was one sweet win for Bird, Catchings, and Diana Taurasi, who were on the U.S. team that finished a disappointing third in the 2006 worlds.

The three were determined not to let that happen again.

"There's definitely a feeling of satisfaction, redemption," Bird said. "It was tough losing in Brazil, it was very difficult. We were definitely on a mission. It started in the Olympics, that's what fueled us then, but this being the same tournament we lost in, we wanted to get that gold back."

Angel McCoughtry scored 18 points, Taurasi added 16, and Bird had 11 for the Americans, who now have won the world championship eight times—the previous time being Catchings' first in 2002.

"This one was definitely sweeter," Catchings said. "Knowing what we went through in 2006 to erase that

made this special."

To win the gold, in a similar situation to the men's team that won in Turkey, the U.S. had to get past the host nation in the final.

The Czechs celebrated their second-place finish as if they won. They danced and sprayed champagne after the medal ceremony to the delight of the sold-out crowd of 6,024, which included President Vaclav Klaus.

"This medal is a great success for us," coach Lubor Blazek said through a translator. "We're happy that we managed to return Czech women's basketball to this level."

Spain also was elated after it beat Belarus 77-68 for the bronze, earning its first medal at the women's worlds.

This was the first time that the Czechs had advanced to the medal round since dissolving from Slovakia in 1993. The former Czechoslovakia won two silver medals and four bronzes from 1953-1975.

"Before this tournament no one would think we'd be among the best four teams," tournament MVP Hana Horakova said. "Definitely not speaking about world championship medals. This is the celebration it deserves and definitely will go on tonight." The Czechs gave their fans a lot to cheer about early on. The whistling and horns were so

loud when U.S. players were introduced it was hard to make out the names. There were more whistles every time the Americans had the ball in the early going. When Katerina Elhotova hit a 3-pointer to cut the U.S. lead to 10-9, the noise was almost deafening.

Every time the U.S. tried to pull away in the first half the Czechs had an answer. The Americans built a 40-28 advantage with 2:09 left but the Czechs scored the final seven points to get within five at the break.

It was the closest any team had been to the U.S. at the half during the entire tournament. A layup by Tereza Peckova cut the Czechs deficit to 40-37, but that was as close as they would get.

"We couldn't stop them in the first half and they couldn't stop us," U.S. coach Geno Auriemma said. "We knew we'd make a run eventually." Taurasi hit a 3-pointer and Bird a layup to make it an eight-point game. A jumper by Petra Kulichova cut it back to six before Taurasi's 3-pointer ignited a 10-0 run. Back-to-back steals by Bird and Catchings led to lay-ins and forced the Czechs to call timeout trailing 55-39.

The U.S. led by 22 at the end of the third quarter and the Czechs could only get within 17 in the fourth. □





No laps for warm laptops; skin damage is possible

By LINDSEY TANNER,
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Have you ever worked on your laptop computer with it sitting on your lap, heating up your legs? If so, you might want to rethink that habit. Doing it a lot can lead to “toasted skin syndrome,” an unusual-looking mottled skin condition caused by long-term heat exposure, according to medical reports.

In one recent case, a 12-year-old boy developed a sponge-patterned skin discoloration on his left thigh after playing computer games a few hours every day for several months. “He recognized that the laptop got hot on the left side; however, regardless of that, he did not change its position,” Swiss researchers reported in an article published Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Another case involved a

Virginia law student who sought treatment for the mottled discoloration on her leg.

Dr. Kimberley Salkey, who treated the young woman, was stumped until she learned the student spent about six hours a day working with her computer propped on her lap. The temperature underneath registered 125 degrees.

That case, from 2007, is one of 10 laptop-related cases



In this undated photo provided by the journal *Pediatrics*, a 12 year-old boy is pictured using a laptop on balanced on his bare legs. According to recent medical reports, exposing skin to the high temperatures created by laptops can lead to ‘toasted skin syndrome,’ an unusual-looking mottled skin condition caused by long-term heat exposure.

(AP Photo)

Moms' Influence on Kids' Weight Starts in Pregnancy, Study Finds

Most American women underestimate their ability to prevent obesity in their children, according to a new survey.

Research has shown that mothers have a stronger effect than fathers on a child's weight. But this survey found that while 87 percent of women believe a parent's obesity affects a child's risk of becoming obese, only 28 percent “assign that responsibility to themselves.”

The WomenTALK online survey of 1,037 women 18 and older also found that only 11 percent of respondents know that a child's risk of becoming obese more than doubles if the mother is obese during her first trimester of pregnancy.

The survey was released Oct. 4 by HealthyWomen, an independent health information source for women.

Mothers are role models for their children's eating habits and also act as “gatekeepers” of food, explained Elizabeth Battaglino Cahill, the group's executive director.

“From an early age, children tend to eat the same foods as their parents, especially mothers, so exposure to nutritious foods like fruits and vegetables is not only setting a good example, but also positioning your child on a lifelong course of good health,” she said in a HealthyWomen news release.

The survey was conducted in order to assess women's understanding about obesity and its impact on them and the health of their families. It found that most respondents know that obesity leads to an increased risk for health problems such as high blood pressure (93 percent), type 2 diabetes (89 percent), and heart disease (88 percent).

However, less than one-third of the women know that obesity is associated with increased risk of colon cancer (26 percent), gallstones



A young girl walks with her mother in Illinois. The Walt Disney Company on Thursday threw its weight behind a campaign championed by US First Lady Michelle Obama to push back child obesity.

(30 percent), and breast cancer (23 percent). Most of the respondents (80 percent) agree that other people's obesity can influence their risk of becoming obese, but only 28 percent recognize the important role played by friends. Research has shown that a person is more likely to become obese if they have a friend who is obese (57 percent increased risk) than if they have a sibling (40 percent) or spouse (37 percent) who is obese, according to HealthyWomen. “Women need to be their own advocates in the fight against all of these diseases, and understanding the influence that family and friends have on the likelihood that they will become obese is part of what's slowing them down,” Battaglino Cahill said. “We need to help women understand that they have the opportunity to positively wield their influence by taking charge of their own nutrition and physical activity habits.” □

reported in medical journals in the past six years.

The condition also can be caused by overuse of heating pads and other heat sources that usually aren't hot enough to cause burns. It's generally harmless but can cause permanent skin darkening. In very rare cases, it can cause damage leading to skin cancers, said the Swiss researchers, Drs. Andreas Arnold and Peter Itin from University Hospital Basel. They do not cite any skin cancer cases linked to laptop use, but suggest, to be safe, placing a carrying case or other heat shield under the laptop if you have to hold it in your lap.

Salkey, an assistant dermatology professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School, said that under the microscope, the affected skin resembles skin damaged by long-term sun exposure.

Major manufacturers including Apple, Hewlett Packard and Dell warn in user manuals against placing laptops on laps or exposed skin for extended periods of time because of the risk for burns.

A medical report several years ago found that men who used laptops on their

laps had elevated scrotum temperatures. If prolonged, that kind of heat can decrease sperm production, which can potentially lead to infertility. Whether laptop use itself can cause that kind of harm hasn't been confirmed.

In the past, “toasted skin syndrome” has occurred in workers whose jobs require being close to a heat source, including bakers and glass blowers, and, before central heating, in people who huddled near potbellied stoves to stay warm.

Dr. Anthony J. Mancini, dermatology chief at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, said he'd treated a boy who developed the condition from using a heating pad “hours at a time” to soothe a thigh injured in soccer. Mancini said he'd also seen a case caused by a hot water bottle.

He noted that chronic, prolonged skin inflammation can potentially increase chances for squamous cell skin cancer, which is more aggressive than the most common skin cancer. But Mancini said it's unlikely computer use would lead to cancer since it's so easy to avoid prolonged close skin contact with laptops. □

Director gets 1 year in prison in wiretapping case

By GREG RISLING,
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — “Die Hard” director John McTiernan was sentenced to



FILE - Actor Tony Curtis is shown seated in a studio chair, 1965 file photo. Curtis died Wednesday Sept. 29, 2010 at his Las Vegas area home of a cardiac arrest at 85 according to the Clark County, Nev. coroner.

(AP Photo, File)

Family, friends say farewell to actor Tony Curtis

By OSKAR GARCIA,
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Celebrities, fans, friends and family members are saying goodbye to Tony Curtis during a Las Vegas funeral service celebrating the movie star's life.

Hundreds of guests stood as services began Monday at a funeral chapel in Las Vegas. The 85-year-old died Wednesday of cardiac arrest at his home in Henderson.

Longtime friend and pall bearer Gene Kilroy says Curtis' sixth wife, Jill Curtis, planned to eulogize her husband of 16 years.

A crowd lined up Monday outside Palm Mortuary & Cemetery well before the funeral.

Inside, seven colorful paintings by Curtis stood on easels while a film tribute began memorializing the young, dark-haired star of such films as “The Defiant Ones,” “Spartacus” and “Some Like It Hot.” □

one year in prison Monday for lying about his association with a private investigator to illegally wiretap a movie producer.

In a stinging rebuke of the 59-year-old McTiernan, U.S. District Judge Dale Fischer said he should receive a harsher sentence than the year recommended by prosecutors because he didn't accept responsibility for his actions.

“The defendant doesn't think the law applies to him,” Fischer said.

McTiernan, wearing a black suit with a blue shirt, had his hands in his pockets while the judge issued her sentence. He declined comment outside of court.

McTiernan pleaded guilty in July to two counts of making false statements to the FBI. He also pleaded guilty to one count of perjury for lying to a federal judge while trying to withdraw a guilty plea.

Fischer also ordered McTiernan to pay a \$100,000 fine and serve three years probation. He will remain free on bond pending an appeal. His attorneys said the conditional plea agreement allows their client to challenge certain pretrial rulings made by Fischer.

McTiernan previously

pleaded guilty to lying to an FBI agent in 2006 about the investigation of private investigator Anthony Pellicano. The director later withdrew that plea, arguing he didn't have adequate legal representation, and also was jet-lagged and under the influence of alcohol when he was contacted by the federal agent late at night.

“What we feel is that a grave injustice has been done to prosecute a man for simply speaking on the telephone to a government agent,” said Oliver Diaz, one of McTiernan's attorneys and a former presiding justice on the Mississippi Supreme Court.

“People don't realize that they can go to prison for doing a simple act like that.” Pellicano was convicted in 2008 of wiretapping film producer Charles Roven for McTiernan and of bugging the phones of celebrities and others to get information for clients. Roven worked with McTiernan on the 2002 box-office flop “Rollerball.”

In April 2006, McTiernan told Fischer he hired Pellicano to wiretap Roven. Prosecutors filed transcripts of a recorded conversation between Pellicano and McTiernan in which there

appeared to be other people whom the director may have ordered the private eye to monitor.

McTiernan's attorney, S. Todd Neal, who pleaded with Fischer not to give his client prison time, said the relationship between the director and Pellicano was short-lived, acknowledging it “was a bad idea” to investigate Roven.

Neal added that the charges filed four years ago against McTiernan, whose film credits include “Predator,” “The Hunt for Red October” and “The Thomas Crown Affair,” has damaged the director's reputation in Hollywood and whittled his bank account to \$103,000.

Neal said his client would have a difficult time serving his prison sentence because he takes an antidepressant that isn't approved by the federal Bureau of Prisons. The drug also restricts what kind of food he could eat, Neal said.

Fischer had no sympathy for McTiernan, saying he has led a privileged life and sarcastically pointing out the worse thing that has happened in his life is getting a scholarship to Exeter prep school.

Fischer, who presided over



**** FILE **** In this April 17, 2006 file photo, John McTiernan, director of such hit movies as ‘Die Hard’ and ‘The Thomas Crown Affair,’ leaves federal court in Los Angeles. McTiernan was sentenced in Federal court Monday, Oct. 4, 2010 to one year in prison and \$100,000 fine for lying during a Hollywood wiretapping investigation of private investigator Anthony Pellicano.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)

the wiretapping case that ensnared more than a dozen people, continued her verbal assault on McTiernan, adding that a prison sentence will no longer give him the ability to eat “aged cheeses, cured meats or red wine.”

As for the medicine he needs to take, Fischer replied, “He won't be the only depressed man in prison.” □

Usher says he wishes mother attended his wedding

NEW YORK — Usher and his mother have reconciled, but he still wishes she hadn't boycotted his wedding three years ago. In an interview with Vibe magazine, the 32-year-old says he was “very disappointed” that his mother decided not to witness his marriage to his former stylist, Tameka Foster. The two divorced in last year. Usher says he “wouldn't do that to my child.” The singer says “parents should be able to have unconditional love for their children and their decisions, regardless of how they feel.” Usher and Foster have 2-year-old and 1-year-old sons. Usher's mother used to manage his career.

The October/November issue of Vibe hits newsstands Oct. 12. □





Govt sues 3 biggest credit cards, settles with 2

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department on Monday sued the three largest U.S. credit card companies for anticompetitive practices and reached a proposed settlement with two of them, MasterCard and Visa.

“We want to put more money in consumers’ pockets, and by eliminating credit card companies’ anticompetitive rules, we will accomplish exactly that,” Attorney General Eric Holder told an afternoon news conference. “The companies put merchants and their customers in a no-win situation” and “consumers are being held hostage.”

In papers filed in federal court in Brooklyn, the department and various state attorneys general sued all three companies, saying they were attempting to insulate themselves from competition.

At the same time, the Justice Department filed a settlement it has reached with Visa and MasterCard. Court approval of such settlements is usually a formality.

Under the settlement, Visa and MasterCard agree not to prohibit merchants from offering customers discounts or rebates for using a particular kind of card. Visa and MasterCard also

must allow merchants to express preferences for the use of a low-cost card within a network or other form of payment.

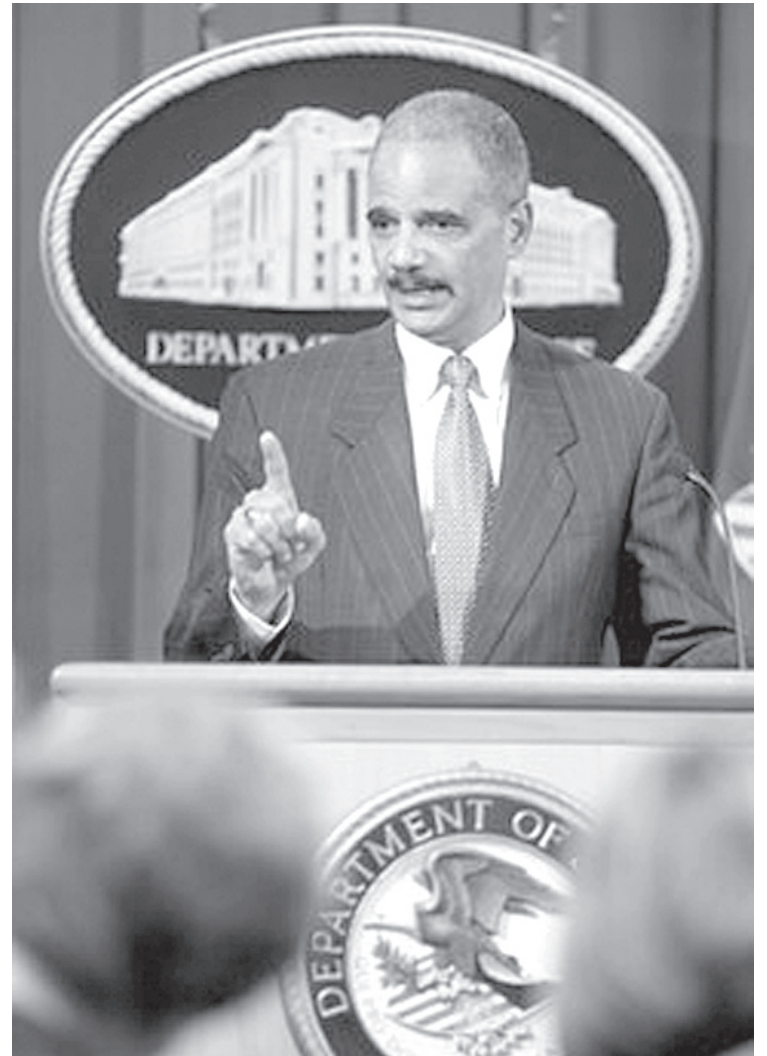
The lawsuit says the card companies are impeding merchants from promoting the use of competing credit or charge cards with lower acceptance fees.

Each time consumers use a credit card to make a purchase, the merchant must pay a fee. Such fees brought in \$35 billion last year to the three credit card companies and their affiliated banks. “We’re partway there” with the proposed agreement with Visa and MasterCard, Assistant Attorney General Christine Varney, head of the department’s antitrust division, told the news conference.

“We remain open” to seek a settlement with American Express,” Varney added.

Shares of American Express closed at \$39.05, down more than 6 percent; Mastercard ended at \$222.64 down less than 1 percentage point, and Visa was down for the day at \$73.24, losing less than a quarter percentage point.

Joining the lawsuit were state attorneys general from Maryland, Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Texas. □



Attorney General Eric Holder speaks during a news conference at the Justice Department in Washington, Monday, Oct. 4, 2010.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Stocks fall at the beginning of a busy week



FILE - In this Sept. 30, 2010 file photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stock futures retreated to kick off a busy week that culminates with the government’s monthly report on employment. Traders were skittish Monday, Oct. 4, 2010 ahead of readings on August factory orders and pending home sales. A pullback in European stocks was also contributing to the decline in futures.

By **STEPHEN BERNARD**,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Stocks fell Monday as investors took a pause from a historic rally in September and held back ahead

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, File) of a busy week of economic and earnings reports.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped nearly 100 points in afternoon trading after a report showed factory

orders fell slightly more than expected in August, but pending home sales rose a bit more than forecast.

Analysts say the market was due for a pullback following a 10.4 percent gain in the Dow last month. The monthlong rally has come on relatively low volume, a sign that many investors are still waiting on the sidelines.

Doug Roberts, chief investment strategist at Channel Capital Research, said the market has been trading in a broad range over the past six months. And with it approaching the high end of that range, a pullback is natural.

The market has been “alternating between euphoria and despair,” Roberts said of the wide trading range dating back to late April, when stocks hit their high for the year.

This week brings a number of potentially important news events for stocks, including the monthly jobs survey on Friday and earnings from Dow component Alcoa Inc. on Thursday, the traditional kickoff to the quarterly earnings season.

In corporate news, France’s Sanofi-Aventis launched an \$18.5 billion hostile takeover offer for Genzyme Corp. Sanofi-Aventis’ previous offer was rejected by Genzyme’s board, so it is now taking the offer directly to shareholders. The offer, at \$69 per share, is unchanged from Sanofi-Aventis’ original offer in July. Swiss regulators said they will require the country’s two biggest banks, Credit Suisse Group and UBS AG, to hold more money in reserve than the amount required under newly

agreed upon international standards.

The Dow fell 96.69, or 0.9 percent, to 10,732.99 in afternoon trading.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index fell 11.46, or 1 percent, to 1,134.78. The S&P 500 again came within two points of hitting 1,150. The index has come that close or crossed 1,150 each of the past seven days during trading. However, it has been unable to close above the key level during that stretch.

Mike Shea, managing partner at Direct Access Partners LLC, said optimistic profit outlooks from companies as they report earnings in the next few weeks would “absolutely get us through 1,150.”

The Nasdaq composite index fell 29.68, or 1.3 percent, to 2,341.07. □

Following film and TV, music takes stab at 3-D



FILE - In this Aug. 31, 2010 file photo, singer Justin Bieber performs at Madison Square Garden in New York.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, file)

By MESFIN FEKADU,
Associated Press Writer

NEWYORK—At the beginning of the re-emergence of 3-D, the focus was on film, with movies like “Avatar” paving the way for the technology to become an integral part of the cinema experience.

Soon TV followed, with sporting events like the World Cup featured in 3-D, and companies such as Sony and Samsung rolling out 3-D televisions.

Now, the music world is making sure it isn’t left behind in the 3-D revolution. Justin Bieber and the Black Eyed Peas are planning to release 3-D movie-concerts, while the music video for Shakira’s

World Cup anthem, “Waka Waka (This Time for Africa),” had a version in 3-D. Even acts like Sia and the Broken Bells are producing 3-D clips.

“It’s not the ‘80s 3-D, like, the way people think of 3-D. It changes the art form of storytelling. It’s pretty amazing. It’s a whole new freaking jump-off,” said the Peas’ leader will.i.am.

Oscar-winning director James Cameron, whose groundbreaking “Avatar” has become the top-grossing movie in history, says 3-D’s spillover to music will find success.

“Music videos in 3-D, it’s natural, that’s great,” he said.

Cameron’s production

company, Pace, will produce the Peas’ upcoming project. Will.i.am says 3-D music content will alter the way we watch music videos and concerts - and record labels have taken note.

JeanBaptiste Duprieu, senior director at Sony Music International, says the company will “produce a lot of 3-D content this year.”

Duprieu says when he presented Shakira’s “Waka Waka” video to Sony staffers, they felt a sense of closeness to the Latin sensation.

“The reaction was, ‘Wow, we feel so much closer to the artist ... and really immersed (in) what’s going on,’” Duprieu recalled. “So I think generally the impression is a better connection and a more sort of

real vibrance going on.”

The Peas performed a 3-D concert in New York’s Times Square in March while rap-rock trio N.E.R.D did so last month. And other musicians like Miley Cyrus, the Jonas Brothers and Kenny Chesney have released 3-D concerts. International singers Kylie Minogue and Sia have also filmed some of their recent live shows in 3-D. Veteran rockers U2 did so in 2006 on their “Vertigo” tour.

Peter Shapiro, co-founder of 3ality Digital and producer for 2008’s concert film “U2 3D,” says the music film helped pave the way for more like it. But he adds there are plenty of challenges with creating good 3-D material for the music world.

“If it’s not done well and the cuts don’t match, you can hurt people’s eyes,” he said. “3-D likes to be slower than 2-D. So if you’re watching TV ... 3-D lends itself to feeling like you’re there. You want to forget that you’re watching a recorded image.”

Cameron says 3-D music content will find more successful in clips that won’t have too much action going on.

“It’s not that 3-D works against you when you cut fast, it’s just that you don’t have time for your eye to lock in 3-D so you’re not getting the value out of it,” Cameron said. “But some music videos are long, sustained takes - so that’s the kind that will work the best.”

Duprieu agrees, explaining that Sony plans to film 3-D content with its classical musicians - including a recent recital with pianist Lang Lang.

“You would think classical music is pretty static and you would not feel that much stuff going on, but actually because of the depth of 3-D, you really actually enhance the listening experience and connection to the music by having that shot in 3-D,” he said.

“It can actually be overwhelming to have too many cameras and too many different angles,” he added.

Outside the Shakira clip, others have since produced 3-D music videos and content. Guitar Center Sessions, a program on DirecTV Inc., features live 3-D performances, including recent shows with Peter Gabriel and Jane’s Addiction. A representative for the channel confirmed that there are plans to shoot about 15 more shows before the end of the year. Rock duo Broken Bells released a 3-D video for their latest single, “October,” and the video for Bon Jovi’s new single, “What Do You Got,” was shot in 3-D.

Wayne Isham, the director behind the Bon Jovi clip, says 3-D music videos are an opportunity for “music videos to blow everyone’s minds again.” □

Google lines up Internet TV programming partners

SAN FRANCISCO – Google is entering the increasingly crowded Internet TV market with contributions from a variety of top television programmers and websites.

The initial line-up of content partners announced Monday includes Time Warner Inc.’s Turner Broadcasting networks and HBO.

The first Google TV sets from Sony Corp. are due out later this month. Google TV will include options already available through a variety of devices that connect to flat-panel sets. For instance, people can also buy movies and television shows through Amazon.com Inc. or stream them through Netflix Inc.’s video subscription service.

The short-message service Twitter and several music sites, including Pandora, have also designed features especially for the Google TV platform.

Google unveiled its plans to meld traditional television viewing with Web surfing five months ago. □

Toshiba unveils glasses-free 3-D TV

TOKYO – Toshiba Corp. believes it has a solution for television viewers who like 3-D but hate the glasses.

The Tokyo-based company on Monday unveiled the world’s first high definition liquid crystal display 3-D television that does not require special glasses — one of the biggest consumer complaints about the technology.

Toshiba describes the TVs as being for “personal use.” Whether consumers embrace the new TVs remains to be seen. Many might be put off by the fact they’ll have to be very close to the screen for the 3-D effect to really work not to mention the steep price tag.

Electronics and entertainment companies around the world are banking on 3-D

to fuel a new boom in TV, movies and games. Most 3-D TVs on the market today rely on glasses to rapidly deliver separate images to each eye, which creates a sense of three-dimensional depth.

In its new TVs, Toshiba uses a “perpendicular lenticular sheet,” which consists of an array of small lenses that directs light from the display to nine points in front of the TV. If a viewer is sitting within the optimal viewing zone, the brain integrates these points into a single 3-D image.

“The result is precise rendering of high quality 3-D images whatever the viewing angle within the viewing zone,” Toshiba said in its release.

The system is similar to what’s used in

Nintendo’s 3DS, the company’s highly anticipated handheld device that features glasses-free 3-D gaming.

Toshiba will offer two sizes — 12 inches and 20 inches — designed for personal use. The technology isn’t advanced enough yet to integrate into larger screens. Suggested viewing distance for the 20-inch model is 90 centimeters (35.4 inches) and 65 centimeters (25.6 inches) for the 12-inch size.

The TVs will go on sale in Japan in late December, Toshiba said. The smaller version will cost about 120,000 yen (\$1,400), and the larger one will be double the price.

The company did not release details on overseas availability.

Chefs name gardens top restaurant trend of 2010



DES MOINES, Iowa – Gardens have been named the hottest trend in restaurants this year as more chefs involved with the eat local food movement decide to grow their own tomatoes, herbs and other produce.

A third of the 2,000 chefs surveyed by the National Restaurant Association named gardens the top trend. Chris Moyer, who leads sustainability programs for the group, said it costs restaurants less to grow their own produce than to buy it elsewhere and have it shipped. It also gives them more control over quality, he said.

“It lets them offer things people are looking for, and a growing number of people are looking for that locally grown type of fare,” Moyer said.

The association doesn’t track how many restaurants have gardens, and its survey didn’t ask chefs whether their restaurant had a garden or had one planned.

But Moyer said independent restaurants tend to be the ones with gardens because they have the flexibility to adjust their menus with what’s in season.

“When you walk into a chain, you expect the same thing every time,” he said. “Independent operators don’t have the consistency factor that chain restaurants do and that makes it easier for them to implement these gardens.”

The Blue Water Grill in Grand Rapids, Mich., expanded its garden from about 1,000 square feet last year to about 3,000 square feet this year. It started mostly with tomatoes but has added squash, peppers, sweet corn, herbs and strawberries. The restaurant also has 12 fruit trees, including pear and apple.

“We just thought it was a great opportunity that supported doing what we wanted to do and that was to be a local restaurant,” general manager Kevin Vos said. The garden also adds a personal touch, Vos said.

“A lot of times when we take customers for a garden tour, it starts with what we can do and ‘Can we cook you something special tonight?’” he said.

Larry Bertsch and his wife, Diann, are weekly guests at the Blue Water Grill. While the garden is not the main reason they frequent the restaurant, it’s a nice addition, Larry Bertsch said.

“It’s a benefit knowing the food you’re eating is grown 20 feet from the kitchen without pesticides or artificial fertilizers,” said Bertsch, 50.

The garden also makes a nice view from the restaurant’s windows and patios.

“The scene, the beautiful colors when everything is ripe, and the way the gardens are laid out — the beauty of how they’ve done it,” Bertsch said.

Moyer said most restaurants start with small gardens in which they grow a few basics, such as lettuces, tomatoes, peppers and herbs. It’s rare for them to grow everything they need because weather limits the growing season and big gardens take up staff time and space few restaurants can afford, he said.

Rob Weland, chef at Poste Moderne Brasserie in Washington D.C., said his restaurant planted its first garden six years ago in an outside courtyard and it gets a little bigger each year. This year, fruit trees were added.

About 20 percent of what the restaurant uses is grown in the garden, which includes 12 varieties of heirloom tomatoes, asparagus, basil, mint, tarragon, thyme and strawberries.

The restaurant also gears promotions around the garden, including Thursday events in which up to 15 people have a five-course meal prepared with produce grown there.

Paul Lee opened the Winchester restaurant in Grand Rapids, Mich., 18 months ago and planted a garden for it on a vacant lot not from far his restaurant this summer.

“We made a commitment to do an urban garden and with the movement to grow local, to shop local, it was just a natural fit for us,” said Lee, who owns the restaurant with his wife, Jessica.

The Winchester’s 4,000-square-foot garden provided about 10 percent of the vegetables and herbs the restaurant used this year, Lee said. “Everything we take out we use to create dinner specials,” Lee said. “It’s been overwhelmingly positive.”

In the New York borough of Manhattan, the Bell Book & Candle is scheduled to open this fall, with 60 percent of the produce it uses coming from 60 hydroponic towers on the building’s rooftop. Its owner and chef, John Mooney, is growing more than 70 varieties of herbs, vegetables and fruits on the roof.

The six-story building doesn’t have an elevator so an outdoor dumbwaiter system will lower produce from the roof to the kitchen door at ground level, Mooney said. □

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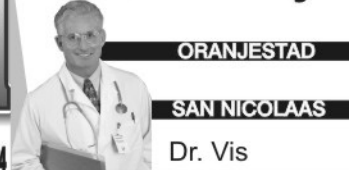
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Details of 18th-Century 'Ground Zero Ship' Revealed



The curved ribs of a wood hull of an 18th century ship poke up from the mud at the World Trade Center site, Thursday, July 15, 2010 in New York. A 32-foot piece of the vessel was found in soil 20 feet under street level, amid noisy bulldozers excavating a parking garage for the future World Trade Center.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

Andrea Mustain
OurAmazingPlanet Staff
Writer

NEW YORK - Since the remains of a wooden ship were unearthed at the World Trade Center construction site in mid-July, a horde of researchers has been putting the vessel under the microscope - sometimes literally - in a quest to piece together the true story of the resurrected ship, and save it from decay.

On Thursday, three of the experts most intimately involved with the 18th-century mystery ship - Michael Pappalardo, an archeologist, Norman Brouwer, a maritime historian, and Nichole Doub, a conservator - convened on a tiny stage here at the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) in front of a packed house, to discuss what science and history detectives have uncovered about the ship so far.

The 32-foot- (9.7 meters) long timber structure is the back end and bottom quarter of

what researchers believe was a two-masted trade vessel, a workhorse of its day. The area where it was found was part of the Hudson River in the late 18th century, and it's not clear if the ship sank, or if it was stuck in the river bottom on purpose to act as fill to make more "land" for Manhattan.

Brouwer is calling the boat a Hudson River sloop, and says it was probably between 60 and 70 feet (18 and 21 m) - about the size of an articulated, extra-long New York City bus.

The vessel may have traveled up and down the Hudson River and perhaps the Atlantic seaboard, ferrying goods like sugar, molasses, salt and rum between the warm Caribbean and the uniting colonies to the north.

"We found seeds, pits and nuts," said Pappalardo, of the firm AKRF, a consulting company working with the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC), operators of the WTC site. "They might

have been what the ship was used to transport, or they might have been eaten by the people on the boat. We're working our way through different scenarios."

All three panelists acknowledged that this barely-sketched biography is only the beginning. Scientists are trying to flesh out the picture of the ship, studying everything from the tiny parasites that once burrowed into the ship's wood, to the tree rings in the vessel's lumber, to the remnants of animal skins and fur found attached to the ship's bottom.

"What is that?"

The tale of the Ground Zero ship, as some have dubbed it, began at 6 a.m. local time on a Tuesday in July.

In an interview earlier in the week, Pappalardo told the story of the ship's initial discovery.

"The day before, we were on-site monitoring, and found all kinds of wooden remains," Pappalardo told OurAmazingPlanet. The notched logs they found were remnants of tall structures that were sunk in the river as landfill in the late 18th century.

Pappalardo and his colleague, archeologist Molly McDonald, arrived on site early on July 13, in case the pilings heralded another, more dramatic find lying under the mud. They didn't have to wait long. Almost immediately, McDonald spotted a curved piece of wood sticking out of the ground.

McDonald, who attended the event last night, said her first thought was, "Whoa, what is that?" The pair got the backhoes to stop digging, grabbed some shovels, and within 10 minutes had uncovered enough timber to

indicate they had a ship on their hands. "It was pretty exciting," she said.

The discovery touched off a flurry of activity over the next three weeks as the ship was uncovered and removed from the site.

In fact, Pappalardo said, even before the ship emerged from the muck, the site had yielded up thousands of interesting artifacts from the late 1700s and early 1800s - butchered animal bones, ceramic dishes, stemmed glasses, bottles and dozens upon dozens of shoes.

"The ship was obviously an added adventure," Pappalardo said. The ship and the mud that coated it offered up many additional intriguing artifacts, including a human hair with a tiny louse still clinging to it.

Save Our Ship

Nichole Doub, head conservator at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, or MAC Lab, tasked with stabilizing the waterlogged ship, said freeing the ship from the oily muck was an "assault on the senses."

It didn't smell very good.

But the centuries the ship spent buried in a thick layer of organic matter is what actually preserved it.

"There's not a lot of oxygen," Doub said, "so microbes can't live in there - and that's why everything that stuck out above that sludge layer into the river water was eventually worn away."

The cleaned remains, entirely disassembled, are now soaking in purified water in temporary storage. Doub explained the ship must remain wet, to keep it from cracking and warping. If

the timbers dried, evaporating water molecules would literally rip apart the wood's fragile cells.

In the process of taking the ship apart, Doub's lab made another dramatic find: a copper disc inside the ship's structure, which Doub quickly identified as a coin. An expert at the Smithsonian says it is a half-penny, a British coin, issued during the reign of George II, who ruled England from 1727 to 1760.

Placing coins in key structural elements of a ship is a tradition extending back hundreds of years, and still persists today. In 2008, coins were placed within the newly-completed USS New York, the transport vessel built partly with steel beams from the destroyed twin towers, bringing the tradition full circle.

What's next

Doub explained that if the LMDC gives the ship preservation process the green light, the wood will probably be soaked with polyethylene glycol or PEG, a chemical used in everything from toothpaste to eye drops. The PEG will slowly replace the water in the wood's cellular structure. The timbers would be frozen, and then vacuum freeze-dried, transforming the wood and making it easier for scientists to study without damaging it.

"It is solid, it is dry, and it can be handled in whatever way necessary for the next phase of interpretation," Doub said.

The LMDC still hasn't announced a decision on what will be done with the ship, but researchers hope to have more answers about the vessel's history by early next year, after they've had time to analyze more data, and possibly even come up with a name.

Kevin J. Eckelbarger, of the Darling Marine Center in Maine, has given researchers one lead. He identified the culprit that ate away at much of the ship's wood: *Lyrodus pedicellatus*, a tiny, burrowing clam he says is typically found in warmer waters.

In the meantime, researchers remain divided over how the ship met its end - was it dragged onshore once it was destroyed by invading pests, then dumped back in the water as fill, or did it sink on its own?

After a few questions from the crowd at the event, everyone funneled out of the room into the NYAS lobby, where a light buffet awaited attendees. □

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Rousseff clara favorita para ganar segunda ronda de elecciones en Brasil

SAO PAULO (Reuters)

- La candidata oficialista a la presidencia de Brasil, Dilma Rousseff, debe ganar la confianza de votantes preocupados por casos de corrupción en su círculo interno y sus opiniones sobre el aborto, pero aún es la clara favorita para ganar en la segunda ronda de las elecciones.

Rousseff y sus partidarios estaban visiblemente decepcionados luego de que obtuvo un 46,9 por ciento de los votos en las elecciones presidenciales del domingo, menos de la mayoría que necesitaba para evitar un balotaje el 31 de octubre contra el principal candidato opositor, José Serra, que sumó un 32,6 por ciento de adhesión popular.

La favorita para ganar las elecciones se reunía el lunes con altos asesores para determinar cómo abordar temas como su falta de carisma y experiencia ejecutiva, así como su fe y postura sobre temáticas sociales que hicieron que su apoyo bajara en las dos últimas semanas.

Ella y Serra intentan ganar el apoyo de la candidata del



La foto combinada muestra a los candidatos a la presidencia de Brasil Dilma Rousseff (izq.), del oficialista Partido de los Trabajadores, y a José Serra, del opositor Partido de la Social Democracia Brasileña, tras votar en Porto Alegre y Sao Paulo, respectivamente. Oct 3, 2010. REUTERS/Edison Vara (izq.) y Nacho Doce (der.)

Partido Verde (PV), Marina Silva, quien obtuvo un 19,3 por ciento de los votos tras quedarse con los sufragios de muchos de ex partidarios de Rousseff a último minuto.

Sin embargo, Rousseff, de 62 años, aún cuenta por lejos con la mayor ventaja

en la campaña: el apoyo del enormemente popular presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, quien la escogió personalmente para ser su sucesora.

Se espera que la ex jefa de Gabinete de Lula continúe con las políticas económicas estables que han llevado a Brasil a convertirse en uno de los países favoritos de los inversores extranjeros y que han sacado a millones

de personas de la extrema pobreza.

Sondeos de opinión realizados antes de las elecciones del domingo proyectaban que Rousseff vencería en un balotaje con Serra por hasta 20 puntos porcentuales. Lula prometió que dedicaría las próximas semanas a hacer campaña a favor de su protegida política.

“Mientras (Rousseff) pueda cimentar la conexión en la

mente de los votantes entre ella y Lula, le irá bien”, dijo Taylor Boas, un experto en Latinoamérica en la Universidad de Boston.

Los mercados brasileños estaban calmos el lunes. No se esperaban grandes oscilaciones, dado que se espera que tanto Serra como Rousseff continúen con la mezcla de políticas de mercado y programas de bienestar social vistas durante el Gobierno de Lula.

Sin embargo, inversores que apostaban por una rápida victoria de Rousseff prevén un polémico fin de la campaña y dijeron que era posible algo de volatilidad.

“Repentinamente, la carrera (presidencial) está de vuelta”, dijo Neil Shearing, economista de mercados emergentes en Capital Economics, en Londres.

Los inversores dijeron que la extensión de la campaña podría resultar en una mayor apreciación de la ya valorizada moneda local, el real, lo que sería un problema para exportadores y para el Gobierno.

Un continuo gasto público de Brasil, que ya ha aumentado durante la campaña, podría hacer que el país corra un riesgo aún mayor de no cumplir con sus metas presupuestarias. □

Chile llama a embajador argentino

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - La Cancillería chilena convocó el lunes al embajador argentino en el país para presentar su posición sobre el asilo que ese país decidió otorgar a un ex guerrillero acusado por la muerte de un senador en la década de 1990.

El canciller Alfredo Moreno confirmó el rechazo a la decisión del país vecino de proteger a Galvarino Apablaza, un ex combatiente chileno sindicado de ser responsable de la muerte del senador Jaime Guzmán, un cercano aliado del fallecido dictador Augusto Pinochet.

“El Gobierno chileno lamenta profundamente y no comparte en absoluto esta decisión (...) voy a citar al embajador de Argentina para hacerle entrega de nuestra opinión sobre esta materia”, dijo a periodistas.

Las declaraciones de Moreno salieron a la luz tras una reunión con el presidente Sebastián Piñera y el representante diplomático de Chile en Buenos Aires, Adolfo Zaldívar.

Chile considera una cuestión de Estado la extradición de Apablaza, lo que llevó a Piñera a solicitar personalmente a su par argentina, Cristina Fernández, que lo regresara al país tras la aprobación de su extradición. Piñera afirmó días atrás que la decisión argentina no contribuía a las buenas relaciones entre vecinos. □

Colombia y EEUU confiscan 120 mln dlr y 17 mln euros a narco

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Autoridades de Colombia y Estados Unidos confiscaron un total de 120 millones de dólares y 17 millones de euros que pertenecían a un prófugo narcotraficante, después de un año de investigaciones y seguimientos, informó el lunes el ministro de Defensa Rodrigo Rivera.

Los decomisos se produjeron como parte de una investigación contra un cartel que lidera Daniel Barrera, alias “El Loco”, uno de los prófugos narcotraficantes más buscados en Colombia. La última fase de la operación se realizó el lunes con el decomiso de 29 millones de dólares y 17 millones de euros en una vivienda del sur de Bogotá, la capital colombiana. “Se ha culminado la que

podríamos llamar la más grande operación de incautación de dinero proveniente del narcotráfico en la historia de nuestro país”, dijo Rivera en una conferencia de prensa.

“Con la incautación de 29 millones de dólares y de 17 millones de euros en caletas ubicadas en la ciudad de Bogotá, hemos completado una operación de gran envergadura que de manera conjunta con autoridades de Estados Unidos permite consolidar una cifra sin precedentes en la historia de nuestro país”, precisó el ministro.

Por su parte el director de la Policía Nacional colombiana, el general Oscar Naranjo, dijo que la Operación Cuenca del Pacífico también contó con la colaboración de México. □



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